



Responsible Executive: Provost

Responsible Office: Provost's Office

Effective: June 14, 2020

Last Revised: August 10, 2020

University Policy 04-041

Face Covering in Public and Common Settings During Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Effective beginning Phase 1 – Restricted Return

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in alignment with the Oregon Governor's executive orders, and consistent with guidance from the Oregon Health Authority ("OHA") and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), Oregon State University ("university") issued its face covering policy on June 3, 2020. It applies to all OSU locations and serves the university's goal to help reduce the risk and spread of COVID-19. This university policy was last updated on August 10, 2020 and may be revised subsequently to align with federal, state, and local guidance as the public health response evolves.
- 1.2. OSU requires faculty, staff, students, contractors, volunteers, and visitors across all OSU locations to use face coverings, which include masks, cloth face coverings, or face shields, when in enclosed public and common areas on campus and outdoor areas where physical distancing is not easily maintained. Masks and cloth face coverings should be worn in combination with other measures, such as strict physical distancing and proper hand washing.
- 1.3. When used with standard distancing and hygiene measures, masks and cloth face coverings serve as a central public health measure to reduce the spread of infection across all university settings. Face coverings are particularly important in spaces where physical distancing may be difficult, or when working in enclosed spaces shared by other people, with the exception of immediate family or household members (e.g., partner, child, parents, or roommates).
- 1.4. "Masks" reference medical-grade paper masks commonly used in clinical settings. Given national shortages, these are largely preserved for medical workers, first responders, and other high-risk settings to protect critical workers.

- 1.5. While cloth face coverings will not provide full protection for individuals wearing them, those that cover the nose and mouth in ways consistent with health authority guidelines will help prevent the spread of the virus in the community when used in combination with physical distancing (see [University Policy 04-040 Physical Distancing During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)) and proper hand washing.
- 1.6. Section 5 describes general guidelines meant to further articulate the practical application of this policy. Specific circumstances will determine where and when face coverings are warranted.

2. Reason for Policy

- 2.1. This university policy is issued to contribute to the health and safety of the OSU community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and to align with federal and state regulations, executive orders, and guidance.

3. Scope & Audience

- 3.1. This university policy applies to all OSU employees, students, contractors, volunteers, visitors, and community members.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. **Face coverings:** For the purposes of this policy, a face covering is an item affixed to the face to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including cloth garments that cover the nose and mouth, medical-grade masks, and face shields.

5. Responsibilities & Procedures

5.1. University settings that will require the use of face coverings

- 5.1.1. Spaces where physical distancing cannot be met (i.e., hallways, doorways, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, etc.);
- 5.1.2. In-person classroom settings;
- 5.1.3. Student health and counseling centers;
- 5.1.4. Shared lab spaces, including computer labs;
- 5.1.5. Dining centers, coffee shops, restaurants, and retail stores;
- 5.1.6. Common areas within university-owned and -leased buildings;

- 5.1.7. High-density shared outdoor spaces (e.g., MU Quad, Valley Library Quad, etc.);
- 5.1.8. Day camps (as warranted, by age categories);
- 5.1.9. University mass transit or motorpool vehicles with more than one occupant; and,
- 5.1.10. Other spaces as designated by the Coronavirus Response Coordinator.

5.2. Exceptions to the use of face coverings

5.2.1. Exceptions to this university policy include:

- a. Use goes against documented industry best practices for a specific position, or by law or regulation, including the use of standard personal protective equipment (“PPE”) per Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards;
- b. When working alone in an enclosed workspace;
- c. When exercising and working outdoors as long as a distance of at least six (6) feet is maintained at all times;
- d. When engaging in an activity that makes wearing a face covering not feasible, such as swimming, eating or drinking;
- e. When an individual is under the age of five;
- f. In situations where face coverings for minors are advised against and not required for participation in youth activities, as per OHA [Guidance for School Aged Summertime Day Camps](#) or [Specific Guidance for Child Care Sector](#); or,
- g. Where space can be designed to provide for adequate barriers.

5.2.2. Exception requests based on accommodation for a disability may be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access for employees, and Disability Access Services for students.

5.2.3. Additional exceptions may be issued on a case-by-case basis by the Coronavirus Response Coordinator, or designee.

5.3. Enforcement

5.3.1. Individuals who refuse or are unable to wear a face covering or alternative in designated university spaces may be referred to remote-only service.

- 5.3.2. The university will post signage clearly stating face covering requirements, including access to services for faculty, staff, students, and visitors. The university will make face coverings available to those who do not have one.

5.4. Additional Information

- 5.4.1. OSU's policy will and may be amended if regulatory conditions change or guidance from health authorities evolves. This may include local or state-level laws or guidance related to business practices (e.g., food service, childcare, etc.).
- 5.4.2. OSU may transition from a requirement to a recommended use of cloth face coverings based on local conditions and guidance from the CDC, OHA, and local health authorities.
- 5.4.3. OSU will continue to follow OSHA and industry guidance related to workplace safety (e.g., safe clean protocols for custodial workers, or face coverings indicated for food services workers).
- 5.4.4. OSU will provide employees alternatives to face coverings, such as face shields, if such alternatives are needed.
- 5.4.5. Individuals who engage in harassing, discriminatory, bullying, or retaliatory behavior may be subject to investigation and sanction under other applicable OSU policies.

6. Forms & Tools

- 6.1. None.

7. Frequently Asked Questions

- 7.1. COVID-19 FAQs: <https://covid.oregonstate.edu/faq>

8. Related Information

- 8.1. OSU COVID-19 Resources and Updates: <https://covid.oregonstate.edu/>
- 8.2. University Policy 04-040 *Physical Distancing During the COVID-19 Pandemic*: https://policy.oregonstate.edu/UPSM/04-040_covid19_social_distancing

- 8.3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on wearing cloth face coverings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

9. History

- 9.1. Original issue date: June 3, 2020; effective June 14, 2020.
- 9.2. Housekeeping edits: June 17, 2020.
- 9.3. Amended: August 10, 2020
- 9.4. Last review date: August 10, 2020.
- 9.5. Next scheduled review date: June 3, 2021.

10. Website

- 10.1 University Policy 04-041 *Face Covering in Public and Common Settings During Response to COVID-19 Pandemic*: http://policy.oregonstate.edu/UPSM/04-041_COVID19_face_covering

11. Contacts

Department	Phone Number	Website
Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Coronavirus Response Coordinator	541-737-0715	https://studentaffairs.oregonstate.edu/