Masks on Campus

Last Updated: August 6, 2021

The University’s mask policy adopts a risk-based approach that focuses on those factors most closely associated with transmission of COVID-19, including vaccination status and the size and density of meetings, events, and gathering places. The University’s current requirements for masking are described in this policy. The University recognizes that some people who are fully vaccinated will continue to wear a mask and strongly supports such a decision. The University will modify this policy should conditions warrant.

Definitions:

- **Fully Vaccinated.** A person is considered to be fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., Moderna or Pfizer) or two weeks after receiving a dose a single dose COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., Johnson & Johnson).

- **Not Fully Vaccinated.** A person is considered not to be fully vaccinated if:
  - They have not received any vaccine;
  - They have received only one dose of a two-dose vaccine; OR
  - It has been less than two weeks since receipt of the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or receipt of a single dose vaccine.

Policy:

- **Requirements for Everyone.** Students, faculty, staff, and visitors that are vaccinated and unvaccinated will be required to wear a mask in the following settings:
  - On public transportation such as planes, trains, or buses, including University shuttles or when in airports, train or bus stations;
  - Indoors and outdoors if you experience symptoms of COVID-19 and until you receive a negative COVID-19 test result or, if positive, 10 days after symptom onset;
  - In health care settings, including the Student Health Center, CAPS, the on-campus testing clinic and Sports Medicine;
  - Effective August 16, 2021, when students go off campus for extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, including for community-based learning and engagement with K-12 schools, unless an exception has been granted by the University;
  - Effective August 16, 2021, in the dining hall except when seated; and
  - Effective August 16, 2021, at any indoor meeting or event where the attendance is 250 or above and, depending on the location and circumstances, events with attendance over 100 may requiring masking.
  - Any faculty or staff member teaching during the fall semester will have the discretion to require all students to wear a mask in their classroom or lab if they so choose, but they must notify students of this requirement in advance.
Faculty or staff meeting with students or colleagues in private offices or small conference rooms may ask the attendees to wear a mask, but should notify the attendees in advance.

The University may require universal mask-wearing in certain work areas, if required by applicable regulations or if deemed necessary to protect health and safety.

- **Close Contacts.** Fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear a mask if they are a close contact of a person who is diagnosed with COVID-19 for a period of 14 days or until they receive a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken 3 to 5 days after their exposure, whichever is earlier.

- **Requirements for People Not Fully Vaccinated or who have not reported their vaccine status to the University.** Students, faculty, staff, and visitors who are not fully vaccinated or have not reported their vaccine status to the University must continue to wear masks that cover both the nose and mouth as follows:
  - Inside of University buildings and classrooms;
  - In outdoor settings where you are not or cannot maintain physical distance between you and others, especially when traversing busy walkways and corridors;
  - When working in workplaces and offices with open floor plans, but not in individual offices alone with the door closed; and
  - In all common areas of University residence halls, such as hallways, laundry rooms, and lounges, but, unless instructed otherwise, residents of campus housing are not required to wear a mask while in their own room or apartment.

The University encourages all community members to wear a mask when off campus in public indoor spaces or in outdoor areas where physical distancing is not possible.

- **Standards for Masks**
  - A mask should:
    - fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face;
    - completely cover the nose and mouth; and
    - have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric.
  - Neck gaiters and bandannas are not acceptable to be worn within campus buildings, unless they are covered by a second mask.
  - According to the CDC, do not choose a face covering:
    - made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe (for example, vinyl); or
    - with exhalation valves or vents, which allow virus particles to escape.
  - For more information on how to properly use face coverings, see our tips on how to wear a face covering.

- **Exemptions.** The requirement to wear a mask does not apply to the following situations:
  - While eating or drinking;
o While exercising outdoors with appropriate physical distance;
 o When seeking to communicate with the hearing impaired and for which the mouth needs to be visible;
 o When temporary removal of the mask is necessary to secure medical services; or
 o When experiencing a health condition that precludes wearing a mask.