

Face Covering Procedures – Supplemental Information for University Policy 1415

Introduction

The following procedures supplement University Policy 1415 – COVID-19 Public Health and Safety Precautions – Face Coverings. The university has implemented a tiered face covering strategy that allows flexibility to respond to conditions as they change nationally, regionally, and on campus. Three tiers are broadly defined below and outlined in greater detail in subsequent sections

Face Covering Level	Population	Face Covering Requirements
I-Red	Unvaccinated AND vaccinated students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoors in all University Facilities (i.e. indoor or enclosed spaces including buildings and vehicles) Outdoors at Events or where physical distancing cannot be maintained Traveling to/from sites off University Property for work or study if in a vehicle with other individuals
II-Orange	Unvaccinated students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoors in all University Facilities (i.e. indoor or enclosed spaces including buildings and vehicles) Outdoors at Events or where physical distancing cannot be maintained Traveling to/from sites off University Property for work or study if in a vehicle with other individuals
	Vaccinated students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoors in all University Facilities (i.e. indoor or enclosed spaces including buildings and vehicles) Traveling to/from sites off University Property for work or study if in a vehicle with other individuals Not required outdoors

III-Yellow	Unvaccinated students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoors in all University Facilities (i.e. indoor or enclosed spaces including buildings and vehicles) • Outdoors at Events or where physical distancing cannot be maintained • Traveling to/from sites off University Property for work or study if in a vehicle with other individuals
	Vaccinated students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors	<p>Face coverings are required only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In health care facilities or designated waiting spaces for health care patients (e.g., Student Health Services, COVID testing sites, Intercollegiate Athletics training and medical facilities, Peterson Population Health Center) • In all environments offering programs for minors (e.g. Child Development Center, camps or youth programs) • In University owned or operated mass or public transit vehicles when others are present (e.g., Mason shuttle, van pool vehicles, university owned vehicles with multiple passengers)
IV-Green	Unvaccinated AND vaccinated students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Coverings not required.

Exemptions from Face Covering Requirements

For all individuals who are required to a face covering (see corresponding Face Covering Level as outlined in the University *Face Covering Procedures Document*) a Face Covering is not required in the following situations:

- a. When eating or drinking;
- b. When seeking to communicate with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, for which the mouth needs to be visible and a clear Face Covering is not available;
- c. When a person has received an accommodation from the appropriate University office because of a disability that prevents the wearing of a Face Covering;
- d. When a person is experiencing significant trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated;
- e. When a person is in need of University or medical services, the Face Covering may be temporarily removed, if necessary to receive the services;
- f. When in a resident's assigned space with no guests (i.e. a student not assigned to the space) present;
- g. In communal residence hall bathrooms when engaging in personal grooming or hygiene activities;
- h. When alone in a private, enclosed space (e.g., an individual's office, private rehearsal space);
- i. When swimming or engaging in other water-based recreational or athletic activities;
- j. When actively engaging in required skills instruction or intra-squad scrimmages as part of an approved and sanctioned Club Sports, Intercollegiate Athletics ("ICA") team practice or when actively playing in a Club Sports or NCAA sanctioned athletic competition;
- k. When necessary to participate in a religious ritual; and
- l. When engaging in a performing art that requires the use of the mouth or unrestricted breathing (e.g., playing a wind instrument, singing, acting, or dance) as part of a University sanctioned performance, or as part of a group rehearsal

conducted in the scheduled performance space. Masks (or Singer's Masks) and/or wind instrument bell covers are required for classrooms, practice rooms, or other non-performance spaces where multiple individuals are present.

Access to Face Coverings

The university will provide two reusable Face Coverings to Mason students, faculty and staff. Individuals may elect to use their own face coverings provided they meet the requirements for Face Coverings stated below in the Definitions section. Units/Departments are not authorized to order Face Coverings directly from vendors unless part of the department's existing medical/research-related activities.

Face coverings are available through the university; requests for face coverings should be submitted to the University's Facilities Management Work Order System. Branded face coverings can be purchased for situations where branded face coverings provide benefits to the institution with prior approval fiscal services; contact (703) 993-2660 for approval.

Proper Use of Face Coverings

1. Face Coverings must cover both the mouth and the nose of the wearer. Face Coverings that feature an exhalation valve that allows for external air flow may not be worn.
2. Face Coverings must not be shared with others.
3. According to CDC guidance, an effective cloth face covering will:
 - a. Fit snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face;
 - b. Cover both the mouth and the nose of the wearer and secure under the chin.
 - c. Be secured with ties or ear loops;
 - d. Include multiple layers of fabric;
 - e. Allow for breathing without restriction; and
 - f. Be able to be laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape
 - g. More specific guidance can be found in the **CDC's Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 guidance.**