

Iowa State University COVID-19 Face Covering Policy

Policy Statement – last updated Aug. 5, 2020

Cloth Face Covering Required

Effective July 1, 2020, a cloth face covering is required to be properly worn on university property:

- Indoors in all university buildings, this includes all in-person classroom settings, laboratories, public and communal work areas, libraries, dining centers, and on-campus residential space and all other learning spaces.
- Outdoors when other people are or may be present where physical distancing of at least six feet from others is not possible, including parking lots, garages, bus stops, sidewalks, and other outdoor gathering spaces.
- Cloth face coverings are required in all university classrooms, laboratories, studios and other in-person instructional settings and learning spaces, except that instructors may use a face shield as long as they are able to maintain 8 feet of physical distance between themselves and students during the entire instructional period.

Exceptions

- Individuals who have a bona fide physical or mental condition that may be exacerbated by wearing a cloth face covering or where wearing a cloth face covering would lead to a medical emergency, or introduce significant safety concerns. In these cases, a face shield and/or other mitigation measures may be required. Students should contact Student Accessibility Services and Employees should contact University Human Resources for an appropriate waiver.
- Other exceptions may be approved by submitting a request to the University COVID-19 Response Team.

Wearing a cloth face covering is not required when:

- Students are working or spending time in a study area, workspace, office, or other area on campus where six-foot physical distance can be maintained;
- Employees are working in a workspace where six-foot physical distance can be maintained;
- Individuals are spending time outdoors (e.g., walking, exercising) and at least a six-foot physical distance can be maintained;
- Remote working (i.e., not reporting on site to a University work location);
- Residents living in on-campus housing are within their assigned room. Individuals must wear face coverings while in residence hall lobbies, hallways, elevators and other common areas;
- Eating or drinking at university dining facilities;
- Individuals are participating in physical activities, athletic practices, athletic events, or classes that require exercise; however, individuals must comply with the requirements of the specific facility in which the activity is occurring;

Even where face coverings are not required, the use of a cloth face covering is encouraged both on campus and in our greater community, this includes while shopping, riding CyRide, and in any situation where one cannot maintain six-foot physical distance. Additionally, students, faculty, and staff should always have a face covering available for use while on campus and should wear a face covering whenever they are unable to have appropriate physical distance from others on campus.

Certain departments, offices, classrooms, laboratories, facilities, programs, and services, in alignment overall university policy, may have additional or alternative requirements for some or part of their services. Employees should contact their supervisor, and graduate students should contact their faculty advisor, with any questions.

The university will provide two cloth face coverings to all students, faculty, and staff who request them. Face shields may also be requested. Individuals must take appropriate care to ensure the continued effectiveness of their face coverings. In general, a cloth face covering should meet CDC guidelines by completely covering the nose and mouth and fitting snugly against the side of the face. Cloth face coverings should be constructed of multiple layers of fabric, and not have holes or vents.

Applicability

This policy applies to all University faculty, staff, students, graduate assistants, postdoctoral scholars, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and visitors, on site at a University location.

Students who have a health or medical condition that prevents them from complying with this policy should contact Student Accessibility Services. Employees who have a health or medical condition that prevents them from complying with this policy should contact University Human Resources.

Enforcement

Face coverings and physical distancing should not be a source of conflict or division on our campus. Creating positive reinforcement and providing education regarding wearing face coverings are the best methods to encourage compliance. Individuals may have approved reasons for not wearing a face covering or may simply need a kind reminder of our shared responsibility to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

In the case of deliberate failure to comply with the provisions of this policy and/or repeated violations, the university may pursue disciplinary actions in accordance with relevant university policies. For students, compliance with this policy is a condition of continued in-person enrollment. For employees, compliance with this policy is a condition of employment.

Resources

CDC Guidelines

- [Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)
- [Quarantine and Isolation](#)
- [Colleges, Universities, and Higher Learning](#)

- [Worker Safety and Support](#)

State of Iowa

- [COVID-19 in Iowa](#)
- [Iowa State Updates and Resources](#)