



PUBLIC SAFETY & INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE

UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Interim Guidance on Face Coverings (Masks)

(Based on Current CDC Recommendations)

Subject to change/update

July 5, 2020

Indiana University Environmental Health and Safety (IUEHS) has developed the following guidance regarding the use of face coverings (masks) at Indiana University. The use of face coverings can help prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, by decreasing the spread of respiratory droplets produced during talking, sneezing, and coughing. Note that more restrictive guidance documents related to COVID-19 for specific settings or circumstances, or other existing IUEHS Programs and Policies related to respiratory projection, including those associated with chemical, biological, radiological, or other respiratory hazards, are not superseded by this document.

- Face coverings are mandatory in campus buildings and on campus transportation. They are also mandatory in outdoor spaces when physical distancing is difficult. Types of campus spaces where face coverings are mandatory include, but are not limited to, classrooms, office spaces (including cubicles), elevators, hallways, outdoor spaces, and other locations where intermittent interactions with others might occur, such as seating near aisle ways and other passages. **This requirement applies to all members of the University community including employees, students, contractors, suppliers, vendors, and visitors.**
 - Face coverings are not required within enclosed spaces when only one person is present with the door closed.
 - Face coverings are also not required during eating or drinking provided that adequate physical distancing (≥ 6 feet) is possible and adhered to.
- All IU employees and students will be provided with two washable face coverings before the fall 2020 semester begins. While face coverings will be provided to employees and students, individuals may also choose to wear their own (See Table 1. Examples of acceptable masks and other face coverings for use on campus). Face coverings should fit snugly with the side of the face and be secured with ties or ear loops and worn in accordance with manufacturer instructions (when applicable). Cloth face coverings should consist of multiple layers of fabric. Items not designed for use as face coverings should not be used as such. Examples of items that are not acceptable include, but are not limited to, covering your face with T-shirts, scarves, or bandanas. Consider using face coverings that are made with fabrics that are comfortable to wear (such as 3-ply cotton/polyester blend), face coverings with a semi-rigid nasal arch to ensure a better fit and reduce fog on glasses, and face coverings with ear loops versus head straps/ties that tend to require less adjustments.
- According to the CDC, people who are deaf or hard of hearing—or those who care for or interact with a person who is hearing impaired—may be unable to wear cloth face coverings if they rely on lip-reading to communicate. In this situation, consider using a clear face covering

(See Table 1. Examples of acceptable masks and other face coverings for use on campus). If a clear face covering is not available, consider whether you can use written communication, use closed captioning, or decrease background noise to make communication possible while wearing a cloth face covering that blocks your lips.

- **Safely put on face coverings by performing the following:**
 - Wash or use sanitizer on hands
 - Touch only the ear loops and place them over your ears
 - Do not touch the face covering except to adjust it to your nose and face
 - Ensure the face covering fits over your nose and under your chin
 - Wash or use sanitizer on hands
 - Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when putting on the face coverings

- **Safely remove face coverings by performing the following:**
 - Wash or use sanitizer on hands
 - Touch only the ear loops and remove them from your ears
 - For reuse, place the face covering in a paper bag
 - Wash or use sanitizer on hands
 - Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when taking off face coverings.
- **Carry two face coverings with you daily to ensure you have a replacement if one becomes wet or dirty.**
- **Frequently launder face coverings.** Reusable face coverings should be laundered frequently or when they become wet or dirty, but no less than once every other day. Use the warmest water temperature permissible and laundry detergent and allow them to dry completely before reuse. It is not necessary to use bleach when laundering.
- **Disposable face coverings may be reused up to ten days if they do not become wet, soiled, damaged, or misshapen.** Disposable face coverings may be placed in the garbage when disposed.
- **Inspect face coverings.** Prior to reuse of face coverings, inspect them for damage. If the face covering is damaged or misshapen, discard and replace it or repair it prior to reuse.
- **Face coverings are not defined as PPE (personal protective equipment).** Face coverings are to be used as a public health tool and are not a replacement for proper PPE in applicable settings. In circumstances where respiratory protection is required, continue to use approved respiratory protection in accordance with IU EHS's Respiratory Protection Program or other applicable guidance.
- When at facilities outside of Indiana University, such as healthcare facilities, follow the guidelines recommended by that facility.

For more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-faq.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

<p>IU-Provided Cloth Face Covering (Mask)</p> 	<p>Cloth Face Covering (Mask)</p> 	<p>Disposable Face Covering (Mask)</p> 
<p>PAPR Hood (For specialized applications)</p> 	<p>Cloth Face Covering (Mask) with Clear Mouth Insert</p> 	<p>Clear Face Covering (Mask)</p> 

Table 1. Examples of acceptable masks and other face coverings for use on campus.