FACE COVERINGS
Revised: January 14 2022

To reduce possible exposure to COVID-19 on property controlled by UCI, and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the UCI community, all individuals (faculty, staff, students, visitors/vendors/contractors) must follow these conditions in alignment with the UCI Executive Directive on Face Coverings. UCI’s Executive Directive on Face Coverings also applies to off-site work conducted by UCI employees and is subject to change. Current directives and advisories are available at: https://uci.edu/coronavirus.

Face coverings

1. All individuals are required to wear face coverings on UCI controlled property when:
   a. Indoors unless the individual is:
      i. In their living unit, unless directed to do so by campus officials as part of isolation/quarantine requirements;
      ii. In an enclosed private space (such as the occupant’s private office with the door closed);
      iii. Showering, washing their face, or brushing their teeth in a residence hall or other UCI facility with common bathroom facilities (though the individual should maintain at least six feet of physical distance while doing so);
      iv. Eating or drinking, provided individuals who are not Fully Vaccinated must be at least six feet apart from other individuals; or
      v. A patient within a healthcare setting, as set forth in the State Public Health Officer Order of December 22, 2021, and directed by a health care provider to remove their face covering for care or treatment.
   b. On public transit, including the Anteater Express;
   c. In a UCI vehicle with any other individual(s).

All individuals who are not fully vaccinated on UCI controlled property are recommended to wear a face covering when outdoors if six feet of physical distance between people cannot be maintained.

Face coverings are also required in the following conditions:

- Indoors for childcare, youth settings, and K-12

There are some exceptions to the directive; please read the full directive. This directive also applies to off-site work conducted by UCI employees and is subject to change. Current directives and advisories are available at: Executive Directives and Policies | Coronavirus Information Hub | UCI

All individuals should follow campus posted signs and consult with their supervisor regarding worksite-specific requirements. Individuals shall comply with relevant policies applicable to the wearer, including, but not limited to student code of conduct and employee policies. In addition, staff should follow posted signs, department specific procedures and if they have any questions, consult their supervisor regarding worksite specific face covering requirements.
UCI will provide employees with face coverings that meet the Cal OSHA definition (definition effective January 14, 2022) and upon request, UCI will provide voluntary-use respirators to unvaccinated or vaccinated employees: Face Coverings and Voluntary Use Respirators (N95s) // Environmental Health & Safety // UCI

Protective Measures:

Wearing face coverings can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by people who may not know that they are infected with the virus and is considered an additional public health measure to reduce community transmission of COVID-19. They should be used in conjunction with other protective measures, such as frequent handwashing and physical distancing, to slow the spread of infection. Face coverings may help reduce exposure to droplets in the air that contain the virus. Wearing face coverings can help protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

Per CALOSHA, face coverings are defined as a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers (i.e. fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source) that completely covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head. A face covering is a solid piece of material without slits, visible holes, or punctures, and must fit snugly over the nose, mouth and chin with no large gaps on the outside of the face. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, gaiter, or a single layer of fabric.

Face coverings must comply with relevant policies applicable to the wearer, including, but not limited to student code of conduct and employee policies.

Face coverings, if worn properly, help greatly reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Wearing face coverings, increasing ventilation indoors, and wearing respiratory protection decreases the spread of COVID-19, but are most effective when used in combination.

In conjunction with these control measures, remember to follow these best practices for infection control:

- Stay at home if you feel sick
- Wash your hands frequently (proper hand hygiene)
- Avoid touching your face
- Increase disinfection of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, keyboards, desktops, copiers, refrigerator handles, phones, headsets, etc.)

How to Wear, Remove, and Clean a Face Covering:

To wear:

- Perform hand hygiene before handling the face covering
- Make sure it fits snugly over the nose, mouth, and chin with no large gaps on the outside of the face.
- Secure the face covering with ties, ear loops, or tie it behind the head
- Make sure hands are clean if any adjustments are needed

To remove all types of face coverings:

- Perform hand hygiene before removing the face covering
- Carefully remove the face covering by loosening the ties or ear loops
• Do not touch eyes, nose, and mouth when removing face covering
• If reusing the face covering, place it in a clean bag or container to be stored until it can be reused
• Immediately wash hands after removing face covering

Cleaning instructions and frequency:

• If reusing a face covering, when soiled or dirty, wash using a washing machine.
• If a washing machine is not available, wash the face covering in the sink with very warm water and detergent.
• The frequency of washing is dependent on frequency of use; it is recommended that the face covering be washed at least daily per CDC guidelines.
• Wash items as appropriate to the cloth material or in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
• If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry completely before storage and reuse.
• Store clean cloth face covering in a clean bag or container until it can be reused.
• Clean containers used to store used or dirty face coverings prior to reuse.

For more information about face coverings, refer to the CDC and to the California Department of Public Health Guidance.

Additional Resources:

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA)
Face Covering Compliance Poster