

## **FACE COVERINGS GUIDANCE**

**Revised: June 24, 2020**

To reduce possible exposure to COVID-19 on property controlled by UCI, and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the UCI community, [UCI's Executive Directive](#) requires all individuals on UCI controlled property to wear face coverings. 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: <https://uci.edu/coronavirus>.

All individuals on UCI controlled property must wear a cloth face-covering outside their home/apartment/residence hall room (living unit) when they are not able to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from another person who is not a family/household member or does not reside in the same living unit. This includes the wearing of face-coverings in labs, classrooms and populated outdoor spaces. Face-coverings must 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.

The following guidance regarding use of cloth face coverings is in accordance with the California Department of Public Health guidance and CDC recommendations. People in California must wear face coverings when they are in the high-risk situations listed below:

- Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;
- Obtaining services from the healthcare sector in settings including, but not limited to, a hospital, pharmacy, medical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, veterinary clinic, or blood bank;
- Waiting for or riding on public transportation or paratransit or while in a taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle;
- Engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:
  - Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
  - Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
  - Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
  - Working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
  - In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.
- Driving or operating any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private car service or ride-sharing vehicle when passengers are present. When no passengers are present, face coverings are strongly recommended.
- While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.

For more information about face coverings, refer to [California Department of Public Health Guidance](#).

The wearing of cloth face coverings shall be considered an additional public health measure to reduce community transmission of COVID-19 and should be used in conjunction with other protective measures:

### **Protective Measures:**

Face coverings may help reduce exposure to droplets in the air that contain the COVID-19 virus. Wearing face coverings can help protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected, but does not have symptoms. Face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators or other medical personal protective equipment (PPE). Face coverings, if worn properly by individuals, help greatly reduce the risk of infection of the COVID-19 virus. EH&S recommends the following guidance:

- Stay at home if you feel sick
- Telecommute if possible
- Practice physical distancing (minimum 6' away) in public
- 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, etc.)

### **Face Coverings:**

A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth; it can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face; it can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen; and a face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

### **How to Wear and Remove a Face Covering:**

#### **To wear:**

Face coverings:

- Perform hand hygiene before handling the cloth face covering
- Wear the clean cloth face covering by securing it with ties, ear loops, or tying behind the head
- Make sure it fits snugly but comfortably against side of the face (make sure hands are clean if any adjustments are needed)

Bandanas and other materials:

- Wrap around your face covering your nose and mouth
- Secure by tying a knot or use a safety pin

#### **To remove:**

- Perform hand hygiene before removing the cloth 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
- Place used cloth face covering in a clean bag or container to be stored until it can be reused

- Immediately wash hands after removing face covering

### **How Often to Clean Face Coverings:**

- When soiled or dirty, wash the cloth face covering 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
- Containers used to store used or dirty face coverings shall be cleaned prior to reuse

### **Distribution for UCI Employees:**

Supervisors can email [safety@uci.edu](mailto:safety@uci.edu) for assistance in obtaining face coverings for their employees.

### **Additional Resources:**

[EH&S](#)

[OC Health](#)