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1-18-2021

UMS_Community Guidance_Students - Together for Maine - Do I need to wear a face covering?

University of Maine System

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Students

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- [Together for Maine Daily Briefing and COVID-19 Data Update: 2/4/21](#)
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For Students

What is happening with in-person activities? Can I still attend class in person? Should I make discretionary non-essential trips to campus or downtown? (01/18/2021) +

Do I need to wear a face covering? (01/18/2021) -

Yes.

Face coverings are required at all times on University of Maine System campuses, property and facilities, both indoors and outside and if traveling on university business in a vehicle with others or engaged in official university business or activities away from campus.

The face coverings are to be of the type recommended by public health officials. These are generally made of multiple layers of cloth, which cover the nose, mouth and chin and are secured either with ear loops or with ties behind the head.

The University asks everyone to aim for not mere technical compliance with the face covering requirement but rather to meet the spirit and intention of the face covering requirement when wearing your own face covering.

For more information about styles and types of face coverings – including options that do not meet the University's requirement – please reference the UMS Face Covering Guide below.

Current exceptions to the University's face covering requirement include:

1. When a student is in their own residence hall room with the door closed and is alone or is with only those authorized to reside there;
2. When a residential student is engaged in personal hygiene activities in the bathroom associated with their residence hall room; when person is alone in an office or other room with a closed door;
3. When eating or drinking in space where eating or drinking is permitted (not a classroom);
4. When a medical accommodation has been granted by appropriate University officials;
5. When a situation (i.e. childcare settings) or a person (i.e. children younger than 2) are specifically exempted by Maine civil authorities;
6. While participating in activities in which a face covering cannot practically be worn, such as when part of an academic assignment requires playing an oral musical instrument and conditions are safe to do so; and
7. In other special circumstances as may be determined by campus leadership.

The University expects all students to aspire to the conduct called for in your campus pledge for keeping yourself and your community safe. This is an important part of helping to make sure in-person instruction may continue on campus.

While the University seeks and encourages its community to come together in support of each other and our shared safety, the University also will enforce the required COVID-19 health and safety protocols as necessary and warranted. Procedures already exist both for employees, in the form of existing progressive disciplinary practices, and for students, in the form of the student code of conduct (Board of Trustee Policy 501) and the code's associated disciplinary provisions. The student conduct code already provides for enforcement in the case, for example, of creating a dangerous condition; endangering health or safety; conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any individual; and violation of University health or safety regulations. Again, the University's primary focus is on all of us pulling together to keep each other safe and asks that everyone do their utmost in their own conduct to avoid the need for enforcement. Any student concerned about possible violations of this requirement may contact the respective Office of Student Life or may call 207-581-2681 to be referred to those offices on each campus.

Beyond the University and University activities, the CDC further recommends and the state of Maine further requires that cloth face coverings must be worn in various circumstances in Maine to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Individuals are encouraged to wear a cloth face covering in public settings in Maine in general to comply with the various orders of civil authorities and to follow the recommendations of public health experts. When circumstances are unknown or uncertain, wearing a face covering and having a cloth face covering available in case needed will allow individuals best to meet these directives and recommendations. For more information about the directives of civil authorities, please see [the COVID-19 state web site \(External Link\)](#).

This pandemic continues to be a rapidly evolving situation. This information is subject to change. Students should check [Together for Maine](#) site routinely for updated information or changes in existing information.

To request a medical and other accommodations as required by law, contact your campus Disability Services Office.

(Last reviewed/updated: 1/18/2021)

UMS FACE COVERING GUIDE

(11/11/2020)

Face coverings are required at all times on University of Maine System campuses, property and facilities, both indoors and outside and if traveling on university business in a vehicle with others or engaged in official university business or activities away from campus. The chart below describes face coverings that are both allowed by and not allowed by the University.

It does not address respirators and other personal protective equipment required to protect the employee from exposures in the workplace. Face coverings are intended to limit transmission of disease between people, not only to protect the wearer but also to protect others.

What should cloth face coverings be made of?

In general, face coverings should have multiple layers covering the nose, mouth, and chin and be secured snugly with ear loops or ties behind the person's head.

Reference:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
- For more information about the protocols for 'voluntary use' under the OSHA Respiratory Protection standard of such equipment, please review the video [UMS Protocols for Voluntary Use of Filtering Facepieces](#). To request a medical and other accommodations as required by law, contact adacoordinator@maine.edu.

Type	Description	Meets the University's requirement
	Cloth Face Covering "Cloth Face Covering" per Maine civil authorities is a protection that covers the nose and mouth; fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; is secured with ties or ear loops; has multiple layers of fabric which cover the nose, mouth and chin; allows for breathing without restriction; and is able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to its shape. Clear masks, dust masks, and disposable masks (pictured), and or KN95s (non-NIOSH certification)	Yes (See Note #1) This category best meets the University's requirement for face coverings on campus.
	N95 / N100 / P100 filtering facepiece (with exhalation valve)	No Any respirator that has an exhalation valve does not provide source control.
	N95 / P100 filtering facepiece (without exhalation valve)	Only with special permission and approval. See Note #2
	Neck gator or bandana style covering open at bottom	No
	Half-Face and Full-Face Respirator	No See Note #3
	Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR)	Yes, with specific approval of appropriate university officials. See Note #4
	Face Shield	No, not by itself. UMS does not allow face shields as a replacement for cloth face coverings. They may be worn in combination with a cloth face covering.
	Other methods	No

1. Employees who work in a setting where cloth face coverings may increase the risk of heat-related illness or cause safety concerns due to introduction of a hazard (for instance, straps getting caught in machinery) may contact UMS Safety Management to determine the appropriate face covering for their setting.
2. Requires additional regulatory Respiratory Protection Program (OSHA Voluntary Use) requirements. Employees must consult with their Licensed Health Care Professional and their supervisor prior to use.
3. These respirators have an exhalation valve that do not provide source protection. They are for workplace exposures and their use is regulated by the UMS Respiratory Protection Program.
4. These units are not permitted generally but may be permitted with approval of the appropriate university officials if necessary for some reason as an alternative to more typical cloth face coverings.

For more information, supervisors may contact UMS Safety Management at [207-581-4055](tel:207-581-4055) or sem@maine.edu

- Student Conduct Code Sanctions for Hosting or Attending On or Off-Campus Events Prohibited by State or University Group-Size Limitations (1/26/2021) +
- Direct Deposit (01/18/2021) +
- Resources for Mental and Emotional Well-Being (01/18/2021) +

Campus-Specific Return Information

