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UMS_Community Guidance_Together for Maine_When do I need to wear a face covering on campus and additional information?

University of Maine System

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[When do I need to wear a face covering and additional information? \(04/29/2021\)](#) -

Required: Face coverings are required at all times when indoors on University property or in University administered facilities. More details, exceptions and information are below.

Recommended: Face coverings are recommended but not required when outdoors in circumstances that make physical distancing difficult to maintain.

Not needed: Face coverings are not required when outdoors in circumstances when physical distancing is readily maintained.

These updates, effective April 29, 2021, are in keeping with updated orders of Maine civil authorities as announced April 27, 2021. These changes do not alter the University's physical distancing requirements. Physical distancing and group gathering requirements are described elsewhere on the [Together for Maine](#) web site.

Face coverings are required at all times when indoors on University of Maine System campuses, property and facilities, and at all other times when indoors on University business.

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. For more information about styles and types of face coverings which meet the University's requirement (and those which do not), please reference the UMS Face Covering Guide found below. Additionally, double-face masking is increasingly common. Although it is not required by the University at this time, individuals are welcome to take this additional step in keeping with guidance from public health authorities such as the CDC (more information available [here](#)).

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.

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

1. When a person is alone in an office or other room with a closed door;
2. When eating or drinking in a space where eating or drinking is permitted;
3. When a medical accommodation has been granted by the appropriate University official;
4. When a situation (e.g. childcare settings) or a person (e.g. children younger than 2) are specifically exempted by Maine civil authorities; or,
5. In other special circumstances as may be determined by campus leadership.

There is no exception to the face covering requirement for instructional purposes. Physical barriers, such as clear plastic screens, may be used in combination with a face covering but are not a substitute for face coverings.

Face coverings do not replace and should not be confused with respirators or other types of breathing safety protocols that may be required by OSHA. OSHA-required devices are intended to protect the wearer, while face coverings are intended to benefit both the wearer and those around them. Supervisors or employees who have questions about what controls are most applicable to the work at hand, should please refer to the Safety Management section of the University's employee portal for more information.

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 for face coverings, testing participation and other 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. Employees in a higher risk category, or with severe illness or underlying health conditions, please contact the University of Maine System American with Disabilities Act coordinator at 101 North Stevens Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5754, 207.581.1226, TTY 711 (Maine Relay System), adacoordinator@maine.edu. 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.

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

(Last reviewed/updated: 04/29/2021)

UMS FACE COVERING GUIDE

(04/29/2021)

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.

This guide 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) are also appropriate as face coverings.	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

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Vendors/Contractors on Campus (02/17/2021)	+
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