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University of Maine System

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Students

Together for Maine Plan

- University of Maine System COVID-19 Information
- Voluntary Vaccination Reporting (External Site)
- Dr. Nirav Shah: This is Our Shot Maine (External Site)

Community Guidance

- Everyone
- Students
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Recent Updates

- [Together for Maine Briefing and COVID-19 Data Update: 5/26/21](#)
May 26, 2021
- [Together for Maine Daily Briefing and COVID-19 Data Update: 5/7/21](#)
May 7, 2021
- [Together for Maine Daily Briefing and COVID-19 Data Update: 5/6/21](#)
May 7, 2021

Earlier Updates

- May 2021 (6)
- April 2021 (21)
- March 2021 (22)
- February 2021 (20)
- January 2021 (6)
- December 2020 (9)
- November 2020 (30)
- October 2020 (31)
- September 2020 (28)
- August 2020 (11)
- June 2020 (1)
- April 2020 (9)
- March 2020 (25)
- February 2020 (1)

For Students

Face covering requirements and additional information (07/22/2021) -

Welcomed:

- In general, face coverings continue to be welcomed in any circumstance when individuals choose to wear them as a matter of personal preference. There may be certain exceptions related to security-sensitive circumstances or other matters when face coverings must be removed.

Current requirements:

- Indoors:** Beyond welcoming face coverings in all settings, face coverings also are required at all times when indoors on University System property for all visitors, faculty, staff, and students regardless of vaccination status.
- Exceptions to the indoor requirement:**
 - 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;
 - When a residential student is engaged in personal hygiene activities in the bathroom associated with their residence hall room;
 - When a person is alone in an office or other room with a closed door;
 - When eating or drinking in space where eating or drinking is permitted (not a classroom);
 - When a medical accommodation has been granted by appropriate University officials;
 - While participating in activities in which a face covering cannot practically be worn and conditions are safe to remove a face covering, such as when part of an academic assignment requires playing an oral musical instrument or when such a special circumstance is expressly exempted by Maine civil authorities; and
 - In other special circumstances as may be determined by campus leadership.
- Note:** Face coverings are not required of any visitor, faculty, staff member or student regardless of vaccination status, when outdoors on university property.

Requirements effective July 26, 2021:

- In general, face coverings will continue to be welcomed in any circumstance when individuals choose to wear them as a matter of personal preference. There may be certain exceptions related to security-sensitive circumstances or other matters when they must be removed.
- Indoors:** Effective July 26, face coverings will continue to be required indoors for any visitor, faculty, staff, or student who is not fully vaccinated.
- Exceptions to the indoor requirement:**
 - 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;
 - When a residential student is engaged in personal hygiene activities in the bathroom associated with their residence hall room;
 - When a person is alone in an office or other room with a closed door;
 - When eating or drinking in space where eating or drinking is permitted (not a classroom);
 - When a medical accommodation has been granted by appropriate University officials;
 - While participating in activities in which a face covering cannot practically be worn and conditions are safe to remove a face covering, such as when part of an academic assignment requires playing an oral musical instrument or when such a special circumstance is expressly exempted by Maine civil authorities; and
 - In other special circumstances as may be determined by campus leadership.
- Note:** Face coverings are not required of any visitor, faculty, staff member or student regardless of vaccination status, when outdoors on university property. Effective July 26, face coverings will no longer be required indoors for those who are fully vaccinated.
- Students may verify their vacation status at our [COVID-19 tracker and verification form](#).
- Face coverings may also still be required in other specialized circumstances.

When face coverings are required to be worn as described above, they 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 \(External Site\)](#).

Students in a higher risk category, or with severe illness or underlying health conditions or other applicable circumstances that may impact their ability to comply with face covering requirements may 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](tel:207.581.1226), TTY 711 (Maine Relay System); or adaordinator@maine.edu.

While the University seeks and encourages its community to come together in support of each other and our shared safety, the University will enforce the required COVID-19 health and safety protocols for face coverings, testing participation and other protocols as necessary and warranted. The University's face covering requirements are subject as applicable to the UMS employee progressive disciplinary policy, the UMS Student Code of Conduct (Board of Trustee Policy 501) and the respective associated disciplinary practices and provisions. These procedures also apply to anyone submitting false or fraudulent vaccination verification information. These procedures also will apply to anyone submitting false or fraudulent vaccination verification information.

The University will be enforcing the face covering requirement. Enforcement activities may include spot checks of face covering compliance, audits of face covering compliance among groups sharing an indoor space and any other compliance enforcement efforts the University deems necessary to keep its community safe. Individuals who are found in the course of any of these or other potential reviews to have been non-compliant with the face covering requirement may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Unless specifically authorized by the University to do so, students and employees, including faculty, may not conduct face covering enforcement activities, including inquiring directly about an individual's vaccination status for the purpose of ascertaining whether the person is required to wear a face covering, and may not otherwise unilaterally seek to enforce the face covering requirements on their own. All members of the University community are encouraged to submit their vaccination verification [here](#). Any member of a UMS university community concerned about a violation of the face covering requirements may report that concern by calling [207.581.2681](tel:207.581.2681) or emailing umaine.alerts@maine.edu.

The University is counting 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: 07/22/2021)

UMS FACE COVERING GUIDE

(05/21/2021)

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 adaordinator@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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- These units are not permitted generally but may be permitted with the approval of the appropriate university officials if necessary for some reason as an alternative to more typical cloth face coverings.

Please submit your vaccination verification information (7/08/21)	+
Exemptions from quarantine, testing and face covering for fully vaccinated students (07/16/2021)	+
Direct Deposit (05/14/2021)	+
Resources for Mental and Emotional Well-Being (05/18/2021)	+

Campus-Specific Return Information

