

FAQs on Face Covering Requirement

Q: Do I have to wear a face covering if I am on campus but outside?

A: According to the guidance from the Governor, if you are unable to maintain a 6 foot distance between yourself and others, you are required to wear a face covering outdoors. Because people can walk up near you at any point, it makes sense to keep wearing the face covering when moving about outside. Please keep in mind if you are walking from one building to another, it is wiser to simply leave your face covering on, rather than put it on, take it off, and then put it on again. You want to minimize handling, touching, and adjusting your face covering (especially if you are touching door handles and other high touch surfaces).

Q: Do I have to wear a face covering if I am driving a campus vehicle and I am the only person in the vehicle? What if I have a passenger with me?

A: While you may be the only person in the campus vehicle at the time, it is always possible another person could ride with you and someone else could be in that vehicle later in the workday. The purpose of the face covering is to contain any respiratory droplets that you might spread through a sneeze or a cough, so if you did NOT wear a covering and then sneezed in the vehicle, there is a risk that someone using that vehicle after you could touch a surface containing your respiratory droplets. So, to be safe, you should wear a face covering in a university vehicle – even if you are alone. Anytime you have a passenger in the vehicle with you, you would be unable to maintain 6 ft physical distancing, so in that instance you should both wear face coverings.

Q: If I share an office with another person, do I have to wear a face covering all the time?

A: According to the guidance from the Governor, face coverings are required at all indoor locations except in situations when you are alone. If you and your coworker are both in the office, you will need to wear face coverings due to the prolonged exposure in a confined space. A flex schedule whereby the office is used by only one person at a time could be a solution if approved by the supervisor.

Q: If I am in a meeting on campus in a large room (e.g., CU Sunset) where 6 ft physical distancing is possible for each person, does everyone need to keep the face covering on?

A: Although physical distancing is maintained, it is required to keep face coverings in place (properly) for all indoor locations (classrooms, labs, lounges, meeting rooms, study rooms, common areas, etc.).

Q: If I am walking from my office to a meeting in another building, can I take off my face covering in order to get some fresh air?

A: According to the guidance from the Governor, if you are unable to maintain a 6 foot distance between yourself and others, you are required to wear a face covering outdoors. Because people can walk up near you at any point, it makes sense to keep wearing the face covering when moving about outside. Please keep in mind if you are walking from one building to another, it is wiser to simply leave your face covering on, rather than put it on, take it off, and then put it on again. You want to minimize handling, touching, and adjusting your face covering (especially if you are touching door handles and other high touch surfaces).

Q: Do I have to wear my face covering in my Residence Hall room? Does it matter if my roommate is in the room or not?

A: Students who are living in the same Residence Hall room are considered to be “family” after 2 weeks. Thus, you should wear your face coverings for the first two weeks with one another; after that, you are not required to wear them when in your shared space. If you have any friends visit you in your Residence Hall room, you should all wear face coverings.

Q: If I’m studying in the library and nobody is within 6 ft of me, do I have to keep my face covering in place?

A: According to the guidance from the Governor, face coverings are required at all indoor locations except if you are not interacting with another person. However, we cannot control what other people do, and it is likely that someone will enter your 6 foot “bubble” at any given time, so the face covering should be worn.

Q: If I am working out on the track, can I not wear my face covering?

A: According to the guidance provided by the Governor, face coverings are now required even when exercising. However, if you are outdoors on the track and you can maintain 6 feet between yourself anyone else, you are not required to wear a face covering. To be safe, you should have a face covering with you, as additional people could join you for a run on the track at any time.

Q: If I am working out in TechRec do I have to wear my face covering?

A: According to the guidance from the Governor, face coverings are required at all indoor locations, and this includes when exercising.

Q: I am the only one in my office, when do I have to wear a face covering?

A: According to the guidance from the Governor, face coverings are required at all indoor locations except if you are not interacting with another person. If you are alone in your office, you do not need to wear one, but should have your face covering available to put on should someone approach your office space.

Q: How can I politely remind a co-worker to keep their distance or wear their face covering?

A: A response like “I am requesting that we maintain at least 6 ft between us” or “Please remember that all of us need to do our part to reduce COVID exposure so please put on your face covering.”

Q: What should I do if I see someone being non-compliant about face coverings or physical distancing?

A: It is always better to say something (nicely and appropriately) first to encourage compliance but if that fails, it is appropriate to let your supervisor know about the issue and attempt to resolve. Ultimately, a report can be made about an employee to Human Resources and to Student Affairs about a student.

Q: Who is responsible for enforcing the face covering requirements?

A: Everyone on campus should care about the need to reduce the transmission of COVID and help remind others when face coverings are not being worn (or not worn properly and/or if physical distancing isn’t maintained). Dr. Erin Foley is the designated compliance/enforcement person for Oregon Tech.