Campus Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings

June 2, 2021

Effective June 2, campus policies for events, face coverings and outdoor physical distancing are being updated. Fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear face coverings in most indoor spaces on the UW–Madison campus.

Unvaccinated people should continue to wear face coverings indoors. The chancellor’s order on masking has been rescinded.

Clinical and health care, child care and food preparation settings may continue to require masks regardless of vaccination status.

Others may choose to wear masks in certain settings and individual masking choices should not be interpreted as an indicator of vaccinated/non-vaccinated status.

As required by federal law, Madison Metro Transit has announced that face coverings must still be worn by all individuals at bus transfer points, shelters and throughout boarding, riding and leaving the bus.

Masks are not required in campus outdoor settings; however, those who are not vaccinated are encouraged to wear them when physical distancing is not possible.

Any individual who is not vaccinated should wear a face covering when driving or riding with others. Vehicle occupancy when traveling with an individual who is not vaccinated is recommended to be no more
than 50 percent of capacity. Campus travel policy has been updated to reflect this change.

Both single-use disposable masks and cloth masks are available to employees through the COVID-19 supply catalog. Employees may also use their own well-fitting cloth face coverings.

Designated staff in each school, college, or division are able to order COVID-related supplies such as masks from Shop@UW. Check with your school, college, or division to determine who orders and distributes COVID-19-related PPE and supplies for your unit. For more information, consult the PPE Procurement Guidance.

The primary purpose of wearing a reusable cloth or single-use disposable face covering is to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets from the wearer when they talk, cough or sneeze. While not classified as personal protective equipment (PPE), well-fitting cloth and disposable face coverings have also been shown to provide some protection to the wearer from breathing in respiratory droplets and aerosols. The level of protection varies by fit and material.

We will continue to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as surgical masks and N-95 respirators to employees who may face potential exposure to COVID-19 or other hazardous substances related to their work. These types of PPE will be reserved for this purpose and they will not be used in lieu of masks for general interaction in campus or public spaces.

**The use of a face covering does not make it acceptable for employees to come to work if they are having symptoms or have a documented exposure risk where quarantine is required. Doing so increases the chances of spreading illness in the workplace.**

**The use of a face covering is meant to supplement—not replace—physical distancing, good hygiene and self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms which remain the most effective measures to reduce the spread of the virus in the workplace.**
**WHAT TYPE OF FACE COVERING/MASK DO I NEED?**

**CLOTH**

**Who Should Wear**
Unvaccinated people should continue to wear face coverings indoors. Others may choose to wear masks in certain settings and individual masking choices should not be interpreted as an indicator of vaccinated/non-vaccinated status.

**When to Wear**
Indoors for unvaccinated people.
Outdoors for individuals who are not vaccinated, if physical distancing is not possible.

**Use Guidance:**
Choose a face covering that fits snugly around chin and nose, but is easy to breathe through. Handle by straps and wash between uses. Store to avoid contaminating the workplace.

**Where Do I Get These?**
Work units order through the COVID-19 Catalog

**DISPOSABLE**

**Who Should Wear**
Employees who find disposable face coverings easier to breathe through or wear, those working in labs or other environments where PPE is discarded after exiting. Unvaccinated people should continue to wear face coverings indoors. Others may choose to wear masks in certain settings and individual masking choices should not be interpreted as an indicator of vaccinated/non-vaccinated status.

**When to Wear**
Indoors for unvaccinated people; outdoors for individuals who are not vaccinated where physical distancing is not possible; while using Madison Metro Transit at bus transfer points, shelters, and throughout boarding, riding and leaving the bus.

**Use Guidance:**
Handle by ear loops or straps. Store to avoid contaminating workplace. Not for full day use.

**Where Do I Get These?**
Work units order through the COVID-19 Catalog

**RESPIRATOR**

**Who Should Wear**
Employees with hazardous substance exposure, employees working in close proximity to patients or materials with Covid-19.

**When to Wear**
When exposed to hazardous material, in close proximity to infected patient or infectious materials, during aerosol generating procedures.

**Use Guidance:**
Must be fit tested and trained. Can be re-used in some conditions. Work unit must have written respirator program.

**Where Do I Get These?**
Work unit submits request through EOC Logistics at [https://shopuw.wisc.edu/eoc-ppe-request-form](https://shopuw.wisc.edu/eoc-ppe-request-form)