

Pittsburg State University COVID-19 Face Mask Policy (Rev. August 9, 2021)

Face masks are worn to decrease the spread of viruses, such as COVID-19, from asymptomatic individuals to others. Face masks reduce the volume of respiratory droplets that are expelled during common social interactions and human functions such as talking, breathing, coughing, sneezing, singing, and laughing.

Definitions:

Face masks- any type of cloth or disposable material that covers the mouth and nose and can be safely secured in place (looped around ears or around the head) while in use.

Face shields- clear plastic masks that cover the entire face. The CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for masks. Face shields are not a replacement for face coverings, except in approved instances such as:

- while lecturing in a course to provide an accommodation for a student who may rely on seeing the instructor's mouth to understand content clearly;
- while lecturing or speaking to a group to support the ability to project audibly better; and
- individuals who have received an exemption from the face coverings policy from the Student Accommodations (students) or the Office of Institutional Equity (employees) and a face shield is deemed a reasonable accommodation.

Individuals wearing face shield without a mask must maintain six feet of physical distance from other individuals and it is recommended where possible to use an additional barrier such as plexiglass between an instructor and students.

Policy:

1. Regardless of vaccination status, students, faculty, staff, and visitors must wear a face mask covering their mouths and noses:

- in campus classrooms where social distancing is not possible,
- in meeting spaces where social distancing is not possible, and
- at crowded indoor events.

2. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors are not required to wear a face mask:

- while alone in a workspace,
- when they are able to socially distance (at least a 6-foot distance) between other individuals,
- while eating or drinking,
- when they are with small numbers of people they consistently live or work with daily (known as a stable group) including roommates, officemates or lab coworkers, and
- while outdoors.

3. Children under the age of 6 are not required to wear face masks on campus.

4. Individuals with recognized disabilities that prevent wearing a face mask who need reasonable accommodations should contact the Office of Institutional Equity (for employees) or Student Accommodations (for students) for assistance.

Compliance:

Failure to comply with this policy may result in denial of access to designated areas or participation in programs or activities, and/or discipline in accordance with applicable university policies. University employees have the right to deny others entrance into buildings or rooms. Individuals without a face mask can request a disposable mask from university offices.