



1.0.014 Facial Covering

Subject	Facial coverings and masks
Effective Date	July 2, 2022
Revision Date	March 28, 2022
Approvals	Pandemic Response Team / Raider Return Task Force
Responsible Office	Academics
Creator(s)	Pandemic Response Team / Raider Return Task Force

I. PURPOSE and SCOPE

This policy outlines requirements for wearing a facial covering on campus during a pandemic situation. A facial covering is defined as a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely, has two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, fits snugly against the sides of your face, and doesn't have gaps. A facial covering does not include face shields, mesh masks, masks with holes or openings, or masks with vents. See the Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention (CDC) [website](#) for a guide to masks.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Effective March 28, 2022, and until further notice, the use of masks at MSOE is optional throughout campus.

Facial Covering Dos and Don'ts

According to the CDC, the use of facial coverings has been proven to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The virus mainly spreads from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.

Facial coverings are only effective for protection if they are handled, worn, stored and disposed of properly. Wearing one does not negate the need for maintaining appropriate social distance, hand and cough/sneeze hygiene and avoiding touching one's face.

- **Do wear the facial covering over your mouth and nose** even while talking.
- **Do practice proper hand hygiene.** Before and after handling the facial covering (to put on, adjust, or take off), either wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to reduce cross-contamination risk. The outside of the facial covering should always be considered dirty.
- **Do mark the outside of the facial covering** in some way so you can easily identify which side is the outside of the mask and handle it accordingly.
- **Do store the facial covering in a clean place** such as a paper bag or Ziploc-style baggie.
- **Don't touch the outside of the facial covering while it is on your face.**
- **Don't pull your facial covering below your chin while you are wearing it.** Leaving the facial covering dangling or improperly fitted to your face creates opportunities for cross-contamination.

- **Do wash the facial covering regularly.** The CDC offers recommendations on how to properly wash them.
- **Don't wear a facial covering that is meant for a health care worker** (e.g., surgical masks or respirators).
- **Don't wear a face shield in lieu of a facial covering** since face shields are primarily used for eye protection and there is not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control.
- **Don't wear a facial covering with exhalation valves or vents.**

III. EXCEPTIONS

N/A

IV. ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS/ACCREDITATION STANDARD

N/A

V. LIFECYCLE

Annually or as triggered by pandemic situation

VI. APPENDICES

This section to be completed by the Records Manager		
Related Policies		
Date Due for Review	Fall 2022	
Public Location(s)	MSOE Policy Library	
Record Manager	Dr. Melodie Fox, Assistant VP of Curriculum & Knowledge Management	
University Archivist	Denise Gergetz, Librarian	
Version History		
Date approved	Amendment Summary	Date(s) cross locations updated and past version provided to University Archivist
March 28, 2022	Removed mask requirement for all spaces on campus	
March 1, 2022	Removed mask requirement for all spaces on campus except for classrooms and laboratories	March 28, 2022
August 9, 2021: Pandemic Response Team / Raider Return Task Force	Reinstated campus-wide mask requirement	March 1, 2022

June 1, 2021: Pandemic Response Team / Raider Return Task Force	Removed facial covering requirement for fully vaccinated individuals	June 2, 2021
June 1, 2021: Pandemic Response Team / Raider Return Task Force	Removed facial covering requirement for fully vaccinated individuals	June 2, 2021
September 2, 2020: Pandemic Response Team / Raider Return Task Force	Removed Kern Center provision; provided more detailed specifications for masks and mask wearing	August 2, 2020
July 9, 2020: Pandemic Response Team / Raider Return Task Force	Added provision for Kern Center	July 9, 2020
July 2, 2020: Pandemic Response Team / Raider Return Task Force	Initial approval	n/a