

FACE COVERINGS

Revised: August 2, 2021

To reduce possible exposure to COVID-19 on property controlled by UCI, and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the UCI community, all individuals (faculty, staff, students, visitors/vendors/contractors) must follow these conditions in alignment with the [UCI Executive Directive on Face Coverings](#).

Face coverings

All individuals are required to wear face coverings on UCI property when:

- Indoors
- On public transit, including ASUCI shuttles
- In a UCI vehicle with any other individual(s)

All individuals who are not fully vaccinated on UCI controlled property are recommended to wear a face covering when outdoors if six feet of physical distance between people cannot be maintained.

Face coverings are also required in the following conditions:

- Indoors for childcare, youth settings, and K-12

There are some exceptions to the directive; please read the full directive. This directive also applies to off-site work conducted by UCI employees and is subject to change. Current directives and advisories are available at: [Executive Directives and Policies | Coronavirus Information Hub | UCI](#)

All individuals should follow campus posted signs and consult with their supervisor regarding worksite-specific requirements.

Upon request, UCI will provide voluntary-use respirators to unvaccinated or vaccinated employees: [Face Coverings and Voluntary Use Respirators \(N95s\) // Environmental Health & Safety // UCI](#)

Protective Measures:

The wearing of cloth face coverings is considered an additional public health measure to reduce community transmission of COVID-19 and should be used in conjunction with other protective measures. Face coverings may help reduce exposure to droplets in the air that contain the virus. Wearing face coverings can help protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected, but does not have symptoms.

A face covering is defined as a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a voluntary use respirator (commonly known as an N95), or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least 2 layers. A

face covering has no visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric. Face coverings must comply with relevant policies applicable to the wearer, including but not limited to student code of conduct and employee policies.

Face coverings, if worn properly, help greatly reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Wearing face coverings, increasing ventilation indoors, and wearing respiratory protection decreases the spread of COVID-19, but are most effective when used in combination.

In conjunction with these control measures, remember to follow these best practices for infection control:

- Stay at home if you feel sick
- Wash your hands frequently ([proper hand hygiene](#))
- Avoid touching your face
- Increase disinfection of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, keyboards, desktops, copiers, refrigerator handles, phones, headsets, etc.)

How to Wear, Remove, and Clean a Face Covering:

To wear:

- Perform hand hygiene before handling the cloth face covering
- Wear the clean cloth face covering by securing it with ties, ear loops, or tying behind the head
- Make sure it fits snugly but comfortably against side of the face (make sure hands are clean if any adjustments are needed)

To remove:

- Perform hand hygiene before removing the cloth face covering
- Carefully remove the face covering by loosening the ties or ear loops
- Do not touch eyes, nose, and mouth when removing face covering
- Place used cloth face covering in a clean bag or container to be stored until it can be reused
- Immediately wash hands after removing face covering

Cleaning instructions and frequency:

- When soiled or dirty, wash a cloth face covering using a washing machine.
- If a washing machine is not available, wash the face covering in the sink with very warm water and detergent.
- The frequency of washing is dependent on frequency of use; it is recommended that the face covering be washed at least daily per CDC guidelines.
- Wash items as appropriate to the cloth material or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry completely before storage and reuse.
- Store clean cloth face covering in a clean bag or container until it can be reused.
- Clean containers used to store used or dirty face coverings prior to reuse.

For more information about face coverings, refer to the [CDC](#) and to the [California Department of Public Health Guidance](#).

Additional Resources:

[Environmental Health and Safety \(EHS\)](#)

[California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#)

[Orange County Health Care Agency \(OCHCA\)](#)