

Face Coverings Guidance

Last updated: May 20, 2021

In May, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [new face covering guidelines](#) for people who are fully vaccinated.

Beginning May 24, face coverings will no longer be required in MSSU facilities, but are strongly recommended for individuals who have not been vaccinated, per [CDC guidelines](#). The university reserves the right to still require face coverings under certain circumstances, such as the Willcoxon Health Center, large gatherings, specific events or work environments (i.e., food-preparation locations), or as conditions change.

Professors teaching face-to-face courses during summer session may continue to require face coverings in their classrooms through the end of the session.

All are welcome to continue to wear face coverings on campus and are encouraged to do so where recommended by the CDC. Each of us will work through this transition at our own pace, and with varying levels of comfort. Please be respectful and supportive of our Lion community during this time.

Employees who have concerns or need to request accommodations should contact their immediate supervisor or [Human Resources](#). Students who are concerned about these changes should contact their instructors or email covidtaskforce@mssu.edu. Students with a need for accommodations should contact [Disability Services](#).

It is important that we continue to:

- Get vaccinated
- Maintain physical distance
- Wear face coverings (if not vaccinated)
- Keep classroom and office spaces clean
- Practice good hygiene
- Stay home when sick

What is a Face Covering?

A face covering is any covering that covers the nose and mouth, and ties around the ears or the back of the head. It must fit snugly against the sides of the face and be worn so that it is secured under the chin.

When used with social distancing and hygiene measures, face coverings serve as a central public health measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19.*

Some individuals may have difficulty wearing face coverings, including:

- An individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, including an individual with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could cause harm or obstruct breathing.
- An individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, or communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

Individuals who fall into either of the circumstances listed above, may work with the [Disability Services Center](#) (students and visitors) or [Human Resources](#) (employees) to identify reasonable accommodations.

**A face covering is not considered personal protective equipment (PPE) and does not protect the wearer from the COVID-19 virus (instead, as mentioned above face coverings can significantly reduce the risk of transmitting or contracting the virus when properly worn). Employees whose jobs require the use of PPE will be provided with appropriate face masks to meet PPE standards applicable to their positions.*

Wearing Your Face Covering Correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily