



**UAF Policy 02.09.003**

Original Adoption: July 23, 2020

Revised: August 26, 2022

Responsible Chancellor’s Cabinet Member: UAF Executive Officer

Responsible Department/Office: Chancellor’s office

## COVID-19 Face Coverings

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### **1.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

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Effective March 2, 2022, the CDC’s [COVID-19 community levels](#) will determine face-covering requirements at all locations owned or operated by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, with the exception of Student Health and Counseling, which will be guided by CDC COVID transmission levels. Vaccination status does not factor into any requirement or recommendation to wear a face covering, and this policy does not apply to those who are medically exempted from wearing a mask or are under the age of 2. Risk status requirements for face coverings are as follows:

- Green “Low Risk” level - Masking is optional. Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk. There are no requirements to mask in academic instruction areas or Bunnell House. Masking is still required in Student Health and Counseling.
- Yellow “Medium Risk” level - Masking is optional except in the Student Health and Counseling Center. It’s recommended that you wear a mask if you are immunocompromised or at [high risk for severe illness](#), and recommended if you live with or have social contact with someone at high risk for severe illness.
- Orange “High Risk” level - Masking is highly recommended inside of all UAF facilities. Face coverings are optional outdoors.

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### **2.0 BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION**

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This policy is being implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. The face covering is intended to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling through the air and onto other people.

The face covering policy will continue to be reevaluated as COVID-19 evolves.

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### 3.0 DEFINITIONS

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- A. For the purposes of this policy, a **face covering** includes face masks and face shields that cover your nose and mouth, extend around the sides of the face, and secure under the chin.
- B. A **face mask** is any fabric that covers the nose and mouth and fits securely and snugly against the sides of the face. Gaiters, and masks with exhalation valves or vents are not considered acceptable face masks at this time.
- C. A **face shield** is a clear plastic or plexiglass shield that is hooded or that covers the entire face from the forehead to below the chin and extends around the sides of the head. A headband must hold the shield securely in place.

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### 4.0 REFERENCES RELIED UPON

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[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — How to select, Wear, and Clean Your Mask](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — Considerations for Wearing a Mask](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention — CDC Transmission Level Indicator](#)

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### 5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

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All individuals should be aware of the proper use, care, storage and disposal of face coverings and PPE.

All individuals should refer to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on face coverings with regard to the type and fit, wearing, and washing.

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### 6.0 NON-COMPLIANCE

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University employees:

University personnel are expected to comply with the face covering requirement as a condition of employment unless medically exempted. Noncompliance reports should be submitted to employee supervisors or to Human Resources.

University students:

Students are expected to follow face covering requirements when at a location owned or operated by the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Students who fail to comply will be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct (09.02). Failure to comply with this policy could result in educational sanctions, university probation, loss of housing, suspension or expulsion.

Members of the public and visitors on campus:

Individuals who are not UAF employees or students who fail to comply with this policy may be excluded from UAF facilities, property, or programs and may be subject to trespass from properties owned or operated by UAF.

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## **7.0 EXEMPTIONS**

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The University of Alaska Fairbanks may provide an exemption to this policy through the UAF Student Health and Counseling Center, Disability Services, or UA Human Resources.

Job-specific PPE requirements:

- Face coverings do not replace required job-specific PPE, such as medical/procedure masks, face shields, or respirators. See your supervisor for guidance on job-specific PPE requirements.

Medical or health risk:

Face coverings are not required when:

- An individual is unable to wear a mask due to a health condition; students can contact [UAF Disability Services](#) and employees/visitors can contact [UA Human Resources](#) to receive guidance or request [ADA accommodation](#).
- Wearing a face covering would create a safety risk to the person as determined by local, state, or federal regulations or workplace safety guidelines.

Face shields may substitute for face masks on a case-by-case basis as approved by the director of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management. Requests for exemptions are made by the department director or dean.

Mask Requirement:

[Requesting a mask requirement](#) can be done through [UAF's Google request form](#) found on the [UAF COVID-19 Resources and Supplies website](#). Individual health information should not be submitted as part of any request.

Requests for guidance and/or Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation based on a medical condition must be submitted to:

- Employees and visitors: UA Human Resources at <https://alaska.edu/hr/ada/> or call 907-450-8200
- Disability Services at <https://www.uaf.edu/disabilityservices/> or call 907-474-5655

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## **8.0 PROCEDURES**

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The University of Alaska Fairbanks through Disability Services or UA Human Resources can grant the status of authorizing un-masked users.

THIS POLICY IS EFFECTIVE AS OF 07/23/2020 . THE POLICY IS APPROVED:



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Daniel M. <sup>1</sup>White, Chancellor  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Date: August 26, 2022