University of Michigan Face Covering Policy for COVID-19
Updated March 21, 2022

Masks are optional for indoor spaces on the University of Michigan campuses with the exception that masks remain required in all classrooms and instructional spaces during class time, patient care areas (e.g. Michigan Medicine, University Health Service and the Dental School clinical areas), U-M Covid-19 testing sites and U-M buses. The masking requirement in these settings will remain in place for at least the duration of the current term.

Mask use is still suggested as an effective strategy for enhanced personal protection, especially for those with compromised immune status, those who are not vaccinated or up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, and anyone with a perceived increased situational risk.

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff and visitors – regardless of vaccination status – on the Ann Arbor, Flint and Dearborn campuses as well as U-M controlled properties off campus. Certain units, such as University of Michigan – Health, may issue local level policies that supersede this policy and must be followed as applicable.

NOTE: Positive or exposed individuals are still required to mask through Day 10 of their isolation or quarantine period.

As exceptions to the requirement stated above, instances where an individual is not required to wear a face covering are when that individual is:
1. under the age of 2 years old;
2. someone who is unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
3. required to wear assigned respiratory protection for the job tasks they are performing;
4. granted a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
5. involved in an activity, including certain types of instruction, where wearing a face covering may present an impediment to instruction or present a safety hazard provided that a risk assessment is performed and reviewed by U-M EHS; If approved for this exception, instructors must continue to maintain a physical distance of twelve feet from others.
6. communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication (in such circumstances, alternatives such as clear face coverings and other accommodations must also be explored);
7. receiving a service for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
8. removing a face covering for brief periods to allow for photography-When utilizing this exception distancing from others remains strongly recommended.
9. asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes.

1 For information on requesting such accommodations, please contact the Equity Civil Rights and Title IX Office.