



University of Michigan Face Covering Policy for COVID-19

Effective October 8, 2021, 2021

Research shows that transmission of COVID-19 is greatly reduced, and lives are saved when all individuals wear face coverings while in public. Vaccination is also an effective tool to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the shared responsibility of the entire U-M community to protect not only their health but the health of those who are most vulnerable for serious illness and death from COVID-19. This policy is separate and distinct from the [U-M COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](#). Please refer to that policy for more information about vaccination requirements at the university.

In light of increasing case transmission due to the Delta variant, the University is again requiring the use of face coverings by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, as more fully described below. The requirements of this policy will be in place for at least the first weeks of the fall semester to aid in protecting the U-M community from the spread of COVID-19, including the Delta variant.

Except as otherwise allowed by this policy, U-M requires all students, staff, faculty, and visitors to wear a face covering that covers the mouth and nose when indoors on U-M property (including the Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint campuses as well as U-M controlled properties off campus) and when on U-M buses. Certain units, such as University of Michigan – Health, may issue local level policies that supersede this policy and must be followed as applicable.

As exceptions to the above, instances where an individual is not required to wear a face covering indoors **are when that individual is:**

1. alone in an enclosed office with the door closed;
2. a student in their assigned residence hall or apartment including common areas; unvaccinated students should continue to mask in common areas;
3. actively eating or drinking;
4. under the age of 2 years old;
5. someone who is unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
6. required to wear assigned respiratory protection for the job tasks they are performing;
7. granted a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)¹;
8. swimming;
9. 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.
10. 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);
11. receiving a service for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
12. giving a speech for broadcast or an audience while maintaining physical distance of at least twelve feet from others (this exception does not apply to classroom instruction)
13. removing a face covering for brief periods to allow for photography-When utilizing this exception distancing from others remains strongly recommended.
14. asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes.

1. ¹ For information on requesting such accommodations, please contact the [Office for Institutional Equity](#)



15. **not** a University of Michigan employee, is working in construction, and is only within a defined construction site closed to the public; and their employer does not have a face covering policy that would otherwise require face covering use.