



Executive Directive – Face Coverings
Issued by Chancellor Howard Gillman
 July 18, 2022

In order to help mitigate possible exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 on property controlled by UCI, and to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the UCI community, the following requirements apply.

This Executive Directive (“Directive”) is being re-issued and effective on the date indicated above, as Orange County recently moved into the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s \(“CDC”\) “High” Covid-19 Community Level](#). This Directive supersedes all prior campuswide guidance regarding face coverings to the extent such guidance is inconsistent with this Executive Directive.

This Directive:

- Applies to:
 - o All individuals on UCI controlled property; and
 - o UCI employees conducting work off-site when not at their living unit.
- May not apply in some UCI locations, such as the UCI Health System (including UCI Medical Center, Gottschalk Plaza, and other UCI Health clinics) and research laboratories, where stricter face covering or PPE requirements may apply and thereby supersede the requirements of this Directive.
- Is subject to change. Current directives and advisories are available on the [UCI Forward website](#).

A. Directive:

1. All individuals are required to wear face coverings on UCI controlled property when:
 - a. Indoors unless the individual is:
 - i. In their living unit, unless directed to do so by campus officials as part of isolation/quarantine requirements;
 - ii. In an enclosed private space (such as the occupant’s private office with the door closed);
 - iii. Showering, washing their face, or brushing their teeth in a residence hall or other UCI facility with common bathroom facilities (though the individual should maintain at least six feet of physical distance while doing so);
 - iv. Eating or drinking, though the individual should maintain at least six feet of distance from other individuals; or
 - v. A patient within a healthcare setting, as set forth in the [State Public Health Officer Guidance for the Use of Face Masks April 20, 2022](#), and directed by a health care provider to remove their face covering for care or treatment.
 - b. On public transit, including the Anteater Express;
 - c. In a UCI vehicle with any other individual(s).
2. “Face covering” means a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers that completely covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head. If gaiters are worn, they shall have two layers of fabric or be folded to make two layers. A face covering is a solid piece of material without slits, visible holes, or punctures, and must fit snugly over the nose, mouth, and chin with no large gaps on the outside of the face. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric. This definition includes clear face coverings or cloth face coverings with a clear plastic panel that, despite the non-cloth material allowing light to pass through, otherwise meets this definition and which may be used to facilitate communication with people who are deaf or hearing-impaired or others who need to see a speaker’s



mouth or facial expressions to understand speech or sign language respectively. Face coverings must comply with relevant policies applicable to the wearer, including but not limited to employee policies or student code of conduct.

3. The requirement for individuals to wear a face covering in this Directive SHALL NOT APPLY to:
 - a. Children under the age of two;
 - b. Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
 - c. Persons with a medical or mental health condition, or developmental disability, that prevents wearing a face covering*;
 - d. Anyone actively engaged in strenuous physical outdoor activity, or actively engaged in indoor approved Intercollegiate Athletic activities (while physically practicing or playing), where wearing the face covering could inhibit their ability to breathe, provided they observe other appropriate mitigation measures; or
 - e. Anyone performing a specific task which cannot feasibly be performed with a face covering. This exception is limited to the time period in which such tasks are actually being performed.

* UCI offices must consider requests for reasonable accommodations related to COVID-19 mitigation measures. Technical assistance may be sought from: the Disability Services Center (students) at 949-824-7494 or dsc@uci.edu; Human Resources (employees) via the Employee Experience Center (EEC) at 949-824-0500 or eec@uci.edu; or ada@uci.edu (members of the public).

References/Resources

- Face coverings are available to all faculty, staff, and students through several campus distribution locations.
 - More information can be found at: [Face Covering Distribution Locations](#)
- Face coverings are also available through Environmental Health and Safety. Please send an email to safety@uci.edu and indicate your name, UCI affiliation (faculty, staff, or student), and the number of face coverings requested. Face coverings can be picked up at EH&S, located in building 41 on the [campus map](#).
- Upon request, UCI will provide voluntary use respirators, (i.e. N95s), to unvaccinated employees, and to anyone regardless of vaccination status. Prior to receiving an N95, employees must complete a brief training in UC Learning Center (search for "N95 Voluntary Use") and follow the directions on how to obtain them at various locations around campus.
 - More information can be found at [Environmental Health and Safety](#) webpage.

Support for Directive at the time it was issued includes, but is not limited to:

- [California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board Emergency Temporary Standards effective May 6, 2022;](#)
- [California Department of Public Health: Guidance on Use of Face Coverings, updated as of April 20, 2022;](#)
- [Orange County Public Health Order dated June 15, 2022, including the reasons for the public health order stated therein;](#)
 - Guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including "[Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know](#)" updated March 29, 2022, "[Your Guide to Masks](#)" updated February 25, 2022



Authority to issue this directive:

- [Regents Bylaw 31](#)

DocuSigned by:

Howard Gillman

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Chancellor Howard Gillman

7/15/2022

Date