

[Edit Policy](#)

SEC-045: COVID-19 Health & Safety Requirement I Face Masks, Physical Distancing, Social Gatherings, and Enforcement

Applies To: Academic Division and the College at Wise.

Reason for Policy:

The University is committed to providing a safe environment in which to teach, perform research, work, learn and study. Because the Coronavirus (COVID-19) can spread quickly and cause widespread illness and death, the University has established requirements for face coverings, physical distancing and social gatherings in order to protect faculty, staff, students, and contractors (vendors who have a contractual relationship with the University) from potential exposure to this disease.

Policy Statement:

All students, faculty, staff, and contractors must adhere to the following requirements:

1.

Face Coverings: All students, faculty, staff, and contractors must wear masks at all times when they are inside, except when they are alone (or with their roommates) and in their private spaces (e.g., dorm rooms, apartments, or individual offices). When they are outside, they must wear a mask when they cannot maintain a physical distance of at least six feet. Everyone should sanitize hands before removing their mask or returning it to their face.

Exceptions: There are four exceptions to the requirements above:

- **EATING, DRINKING, PERSONAL HYGIENE:** People may remove masks, of course, when eating, drinking, showering, brushing teeth, etc.
- **EXERCISING:** Certain exceptions to masking requirements apply to those who are exercising indoors (e.g., for those who are swimming or on exercise equipment). Details on these exceptions will be posted at IM-Rec and athletic facilities. To be on the safe side, always bring your mask with you.
- **TEACHING:** Instructors may remove masks when teaching behind plexiglass barriers as long as they can maintain physical distance of at least six feet from students.
- **HEALTH/ADA ACCOMMODATIONS:** Students with pre-existing conditions can contact the Student Disabilities Access Center (SDAC) to seek accommodations related to masking requirements. Employees with pre-existing conditions can seek accommodations related to masking requirements at <https://eocr.virginia.edu/procedures-employees-disabilities-request-workplace-accommodations>.

2.

Physical Distancing: All students, faculty, staff, and contractors should maintain six feet or more from others whenever possible.

3. **Social Gatherings: Only small gatherings are permitted. Social gatherings may not exceed 15 people**, and all attendees must be physically distanced at least six feet from one another. Large outdoor areas (e.g., the Lawn) can accommodate more than one social gathering provided the groups are appropriately spaced from one another.

Compliance with Policy:

If a **student** violates these rules:

- *Minor violations* will ideally be addressed in the moment by an active bystander (e.g., offering a forgetful student a mask) and/or through an educational discussion (e.g., student meeting with residence life or other staff). We will encourage peer engagement and bystander intervention by faculty, staff, and students in training programs and other communications, consistent with our broader social norming campaign.
- *Serious violations* will be routed to the University Judiciary Committee (UJC) and also evaluated for immediate interim disciplinary suspension by the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS); through this administrative process, ODOS can suspend a student from in-person learning/activities (i.e., allow them to continue with remote learning) or all enrollment (no remote learning). The interim suspension includes a no-trespass order from Grounds enforceable through the University Police Department. The definition of what is a serious violation will be fact-bound, though we expect it will include repeated violations by the same individual or organization, those that constitute a refusal to comply when warned or encouraged, and large events in plain, intentional disregard of size and distance limitations.
- *Widespread violations* will be a factor in determining whether and when to close the University to students and in-person classes and to request that students return home.

If an **employee** fails to comply with requirements of this policy, it may result in disciplinary action in accordance with relevant University policies.

Details on enforcement for faculty, staff, and contractors are being developed and will be added to this policy once ready.

Effective Term of the Policy: This policy will remain in effect indefinitely until federal, state, local, and/or University directives deem a face covering or physical distancing is no longer necessary or recommended to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Questions about this policy should be directed to [Emergency Management](#) or [Environmental Health and Safety](#).

Definition of Terms in Statement:

- **Face Covering (Face Mask):**
Face coverings/masks are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health primarily to slow the spread of COVID-19 by reducing spread of the virus from the wearer to others. They are not intended to provide protection from inhalation of small particles or virus aerosols. According to CDC guidance, an effective cloth face covering will:
 - Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face;
 - Be secured with ties or ear loops;
 - Include multiple layers of fabric;
 - Allow for breathing without restriction; and
 - Be able to be laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape.
- **Physical Distancing:**
A public health practice designed to limit the spread of infection by requiring sufficient

physical space of at least six feet between individuals.

- **Social Gatherings:**
Planned or spontaneous indoor or outdoor events with people participating or attending for a social purpose. This includes celebrations and parties hosted at private residences.

Procedures:

Students: Contact the [Student Disabilities Access Center](#)

Employees: [Procedures for Employees with Disabilities to Request Workplace Accommodations](#)

Effective Date: 06/01/2020 Last Revised Date: 08/03/2020 Policy Type: University

Contact Office: [Emergency Management \(UVA\), Environmental Health and Safety](#)

Oversight Executive: President of the University

Major Category: Safety, Security and Environmental Quality

Next Scheduled Review: 01/01/2021

Approved by, Date: President of the University, 06/01/2020

Revision History: Policy revised 8/3/20; Added Wise 7/8/20; Edited Policy Statement 7/15/20, 6/25/20; Revised Section 1 6/2/20.

Source URL: <https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/SEC-045>

--- ARCHIVED ---