



Face Covering Requirement for COVID-19 Response

REVISED July 14, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in alignment with the Oregon Governor's executive orders, and consistent with guidance from the Oregon Health Authority ("OHA") and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), Oregon Tech issued its face covering policy on June 17, 2020. It applies to all Oregon Tech locations and serves the university's goal to help reduce the risk and spread of COVID-19.

Oregon Tech requires the use of cloth face coverings, or an appropriate alternative, among all faculty, staff, students and visitors who are physically present at an Oregon Tech location and in enclosed public or common areas. Cloth face coverings, or alternative, are worn in combination with other measures, such as physical distancing and proper hand washing.

At minimum, **cloth face coverings are required** where physical distancing may be difficult or when working in enclosed spaces shared by others, other than family or household members (*e.g., family, roommates*).

Alternatives to the cloth face covers include: **clear plastic face shields, disposable medical-grade mask, scarfs, gators, or other wraps.**

Campus settings that will require the use of face coverings include:

- Spaces where physical distancing cannot be met (i.e. hallways, doorways, elevators, stairwells)
- In-person classroom settings
- Integrated Student Health Center
- Shared lab spaces, computer labs, library
- MarketPlace Cafe, coffee shops, and bookstore
- Common areas within university buildings (lounges, study nooks, etc.)
- Higher density shared outdoor spaces
- Student Rec Center / gym
- Other spaces as designated

Alternatives to a cloth face coverings should be considered in the following circumstances:

- People under the age of two, nor anyone unable to remove the covering without assistance;
- Those with specific health conditions, including people with difficulty breathing;
- Those with heightened sensitivity to having something placed over their face, such as trauma survivors; or
- Those who are engaged in teach, advising or other activities where people with a hearing impairment may be present.

Exceptions to the use of face covers:

- Use goes against documented industry best practices for a specific position, or by law or regulation, including the use of standard PPE per OSHA standards;

- When working alone in an enclosed workspace;
- When working out in a gym where alternative shielding is provided; or
- When exercising outdoors as long as at least 6' distance is maintained at all times.

Enforcement:

- A person not wearing a face covering may be asked to put on a face covering or leave campus.
- Individuals who are unable or refuse to wear a face covering or alternative in designated university spaces may be referred to the appropriate office for action (OHR for employees; Student Affairs for students).

Additional Information:

- Oregon Tech's policy will be fluid and adaptive as regulatory conditions change or guidance from health authorities evolves. This may include local or state-level guidance related to business practices (e.g., food service, campus spaces, etc.)
- Oregon Tech may transition from required to recommend based on guidance from the CDC, OHA and local health authorities.
- Oregon Tech will provide members of the university community with a cloth face cover (or alternative) as a supplement to their personal supply.
- Oregon Tech will continue to follow OSHA and industry guidance related to workplace safety (e.g., safe clean protocols for custodial workers, or face coverings indicated for food services workers).
- Oregon Tech will provide alternatives to face coverings, such as face shields, if such alternatives are needed.
- Oregon Tech will take a zero tolerance approach to any acts of bias or discrimination related to the use of face coverings, including acts of public shaming or criticism for individuals not able to wear a face covering.
- Oregon Tech has the latitude to expand the requirement based on local circumstances, e.g., a campus-based outbreak), in consultation with the policy administrator.

Campus contact regarding this policy: Vice President for Student Affairs; Student.Affairs@oit.edu or 541-885-1013.