



Face Covering Requirement for COVID-19 Response

June 17, 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.

The use of face coverings is a primary public health measure to reduce the spread of infection across the campus. Oregon Tech requires faculty, staff, students, and visitors at all Oregon Tech locations to use face coverings when in enclosed public and common areas and outdoor areas where physical distancing is not easily maintained, unless an exception is granted. Face coverings include masks, cloth face coverings, face shields and worn in combination with other preventative measures, such as physical distancing, proper hand washing, and not coming to campus if unwell. Face coverings are to cover both the nose and mouth, consistent with health authority guidelines.

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
- MarketPlace Cafe, coffee shops, and bookstore
- Common areas within university buildings and university leased buildings
- Higher density shared outdoor spaces
- Student Rec Center / gym
- Other spaces as designated by the VP Student Affairs

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

- Those with heightened sensitivity to having something placed over their face, such as trauma survivors; or
- While people are engaged in teaching, advising or other educational and research activities where people with a hearing impairment may be present.

Exceptions to the use of face coverings:

- 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 barriers are provided;

- When exercising or working outdoors as long as a distance of at least 6 feet is maintained at all times;
- People under the age of two;
- Those with medical conditions that prohibits wearing any face covering;
- If an individual is unable to remove the covering without assistance; or
- Where a space provides for adequate barriers.

Enforcement:

- No person shall be restricted participation if they are not able to wear a cloth face covering or suitable alternative for a reason listed in this document.
- Individuals who are unable to or refuse to wear a face covering or alternative in designated university spaces may be instructed to leave campus and directed to receive services remotely.
- 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. Individuals who engage in harassing, discriminatory, bullying or retaliatory behavior towards others because they are not wearing a face covering may be subject to investigation and sanction under applicable Oregon Tech policies.

Additional Information:

- Oregon Tech's requirement 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 'recommended' based on guidance from the CDC, OHA and local health authorities.
- Oregon Tech will provide members of the university community with a 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., cleaning protocols for custodial workers or face coverings for food services workers).
- Oregon Tech will provide employees alternatives to face coverings, such as face shields, if such alternatives are needed.
- Oregon Tech will post signage clearly indicating the face covering requirements for access to campus for faculty, staff, students and visitors.

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