

Conflict Resolution and Face Masks

Statement about Face Masks

All SIU students, staff, faculty, and visitors must wear a face covering (mask) upon entering any campus building. The mask **MUST** be worn over the mouth and nose as directed by the university and in compliance with an order from the Illinois Governor. We know that COVID-19 can be spread when people are asymptomatic, which means they don't know they are sick. Wearing masks has been shown to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to others. It's important to our employees and students that SIUC is a safe place to work and study, and taking this step creates a safe environment for all of us as advised by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As a reminder, masks do not replace the need to maintain social distancing, frequent handwashing and our rigorous cleaning and disinfecting routines. The face covering is not only a protection for you, it is also a protection for others near you, to prevent you from unknowingly spreading the COVID-19 virus to others.

Guidelines to Adhere for Face Masks

1. You may wear your own clean, well-maintained, mask from home instead of the SIUC-provided covering if you choose.
2. Masks are required in indoor public spaces regardless of the ability to maintain social distance. Indoor public spaces anyone can access, such as reception areas with walk-in access and the lobbies of buildings. Masks are also required in offices and laboratories when multiple people are present and social distancing is not possible.
3. Masks are also required outdoors if safe social distancing is not possible.
4. You should carry at least two masks with you daily to ensure that you have a replacement if one becomes unusable while you are on campus.

Conflict Resolution Tips and Tricks

1. **Stay calm:** Even when discussing topics that we are very passionate about we may not be able to get the best message across when angry. By being angry we may put others on the defensive.
2. **Choose a good time and place for the conversation:** When it is possible we should find a place that is free from interruptions to have these conversations. This also allows you to have the time to formulate what you want the conversation to look like. Crowded areas may put others on the defensive.
3. **Focus on the behavior:** Don't focus on the person, focus on the concerning behavior.
4. **Use facts:** When discussing the issue with others be sure to use facts and information to back your argument.

Things to Talk to Students About

1. Talk to the student about how you feel safer when you wear your mask. This could open a conversation about why they are not wearing a mask.
2. Have a conversation with the student about how not wearing a facemask may make others feel.

3. Have a conversation with the student about how not wearing a mask makes you feel.
4. Talk to the student about the facts of why masks are important and how they help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
5. Make sure the student is aware it is now a policy on campus that all students, faculty, and staff members are required to wear masks

FAQs on Covid-19 and Face Masks

Does wearing a face mask really do anything?

The virus spreads via people interacting in close proximity, such as speaking, coughing, or sneezing. A face covering is not intended to protect the wearer but may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others.

If I wear a face mask do I still need to practice social distancing?

Face coverings serve as an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in addition to social distancing. A face covering is not intended to take place of social distancing.

Why weren't face masks recommended at the start of the pandemic?

At that time, experts didn't know the extent to which people could spread the virus before symptoms appeared. It was also not known that some people have COVID-19 but don't have any symptoms.

Resources on Covid-19 and Face Masks

CDC: Recommendation for Cloth Masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

CDC: Coronavirus FAQ: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

WHO: When and How to use Masks - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

Mayo Clinic: How much protection do face masks offer? - <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-mask/art-20485449>

SIUC: COVID-19 Resources: <https://siu.edu/coronavirus/>