



Face Covering Protocol

The Maine Community College System has implemented a variety of precautionary measures aimed at reducing the risk of transmission on campus of the virus that causes COVID-19. One significant precautionary measure advocated by public health officials and adopted by MCCS is the requirement to wear a disposable or cloth face covering in certain settings.

This protocol is periodically revised to reflect executive orders and updated public health guidance. Additional public health guidance in this area is anticipated and the protocol will be revised accordingly. Until further notice, the following terms govern the wearing of face coverings on Maine Community College System property.

I. Where a Face Covering is Required

A. Indoors.

Except as otherwise provided, a face covering is required to be worn over the nose, mouth and chin indoors in all indoor public and shared/communal spaces. Until further notice, the following exemptions from the face covering requirement shall apply.

1. Employees

- Employees who submit their vaccination card to and are confirmed as fully vaccinated by the president's designee are exempt from wearing a face covering. Employees must continue to wear a face covering until they receive written confirmation from the designee. The designee shall cc the employee's supervisor on the notice of confirmation, or otherwise provide a timely copy. Employees confirmed as fully vaccinated are also exempted from wearing a face covering during visits to other colleges, such as for meetings and trainings, if a copy of the written confirmation is provided to the meeting organizer.
- Any employee who is alone in an office with the door closed is exempt.

2. Students

- At such time as a college may implement a procedure under which the fully vaccinated status of a student is confirmed in writing, students confirmed by the college as fully vaccinated are exempt. Until a procedure is implemented and written confirmation is received, students must continue to comply with the face covering requirement.

- Residential students who are alone in their own bedroom in campus housing and the door is closed are exempt.

3. **Contractors and Vendors**

- Contractors, vendors and their respective employees whose duties require a physical presence on campus, who submit their vaccination card to and are confirmed as fully vaccinated by the president's designee are exempt. A face covering is required until receipt of written confirmation, which shall be cc'd to the MCCS contact person for the contractor/vendor.
- *This exemption does not apply to any person subject to professional standards that require or recommend the wearing of a face covering during the performance of their duties or to any person whose employer otherwise requires them to wear a face covering during the work day.*

4. **Eating and Drinking/All Persons**

- Any person when eating or drinking in a space where eating and drinking is permitted and only for the duration necessary to consume the food and/or beverage is exempt. However, physical distancing must be maintained by unvaccinated persons during this activity.

5. **Certain Age Children**

- Children under 5 in a daycare setting and all other children under 2 years of age are exempt.

Members of the Public. Until further notice, except as otherwise provided in this protocol, members of the public are required to wear a face covering in all indoor spaces.

B. Outdoors

- Face coverings are not required to be worn out of doors, other than when in a dense crowd.

Any person required to wear a face covering who does not comply with this protocol, will be asked to put one on or leave the location where a face covering is required.

Physical Distancing. Except as otherwise provided, physical distancing is not required indoors or outdoors on MCCS property.

II. Type of Face Covering Required

A face covering must be a disposable or cloth mask made of multiple layers of tightly woven fabric that fits snugly around the face, covers the nose, mouth and chin and secures with ear loops or ties behind the head.

Homemade and commercially manufactured masks that meet this definition are acceptable forms of face coverings.

Examples of face coverings that are not acceptable include:

1. Bandanas;
2. Neck gaiters; and
3. Masks with a valve or vent

III. Requests for Accommodations

Persons required under this protocol to wear a face covering who have a documented disability and have been determined by a medical professional to be unable to wear a disposable or cloth face covering should contact [the college's Office of Student Disability /Accessibility Services or ADA officer] prior to coming to campus to determine whether a reasonable accommodation is available.

IV. Off Campus

Because we truly are in this together, taking these steps will help to minimize the risk of transmission on campus and benefit all students, employees and their families. We also ask that all members of the campus community continue to wear a disposable or cloth face covering during visits to off campus indoor public settings where distancing is not practical.

Effective 6/ /21