COVID-19 Face Covering Guidance

WHY WEAR A FACE COVERING

CDC now recommends and the State of Rhode Island now requires wearing a cloth face covering in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The purpose is to slow the spread of COVID-19 from people who do not have symptoms.

WHAT IS A FACE COVERING

- A face covering can be made from common materials including cloth napkins, bandanas, T-shirts, etc.
- CDC, YouTube, Facebook and other social media outlets have instructions.
- A face covering is different from an N95 or surgical mask.
- A face covering should:
  - Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
  - Be secure with ties or ear loops.
  - Include multiple layers of fabric.
  - Allow breathing without restriction.
  - Be able to be washed and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

WHEN TO WEAR A FACE COVERING

- In public settings such as grocery stores and pharmacies.
- While in the same area as other people. Continue to maintain social distancing and frequently clean surfaces.
- While using public transportation or in a shared University vehicle.
- While at work, unless you can easily, continuously and measurably maintain at least six (6) feet of distance from others for the duration of your work. Face coverings must be worn in any entry, exit and common area. Contact your supervisor if you need a face covering while working on campus.

WHEN A FACE COVERING IS NOT NEEDED

- Driving solo to work.
- While outdoors maintaining social distancing. You must have a face covering available should you need it.
- When working remotely such as alone in a laboratory, private office as long as there is no contact with others.

PUTTING ON, REMOVING AND WASHING A FACE COVERING

- Perform proper hand hygiene before putting it on, after removing it, or after adjusting.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing.
- Do not put the face covering down on surfaces to prevent the potential spread of virus.
- Machine wash and dry reusable face coverings after each day with regular household detergent.

CAUTION

- Social distancing, hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces are still important steps.
- Stay home if you are sick. A face covering does not allow you to be out in public if you are sick.
- Reserve N95s and surgical masks for healthcare workers, or for tasks that typically require their use.


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