



Mask and Face Covering Guidelines

July 2, 2020

Wabash College requires students, faculty, and staff to wear a face covering or mask in most situations when on campus. Members of the Wabash community should visit the [Centers for Disease Control](#) website for the most reliable and current information on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Under what conditions am I required to wear a face covering or mask?

There is research to support that an infected person wearing a mask may reduce spreading the disease to others. Since a person infected with COVID-19 may not exhibit symptoms for several days, he or she may unknowingly spread the virus when interacting with others. However, there is limited research to support that a currently uninfected, healthy person will avoid getting the virus by wearing a mask. To protect our community, you must wear a mask whenever you cannot maintain 6 ft distance from others. This applies to all buildings on the Wabash campus.

Mask Requirements:

| | Students | Faculty/Staff |
|---|--|--|
| Classroom | Required | Required |
| Hallways | Required | Required |
| Outside | Required if crowded, recommended if not crowded | Required if crowded, recommended if not crowded |
| Offices | Required | Not required if alone |
| Public areas of campus buildings | Required | Required |
| Public areas of living units including bathrooms | Required | N/A |
| Own room | Not required if alone | N/A |

While making exceptions will not be the norm, if you feel you have a reasonable explanation for refusing to wear a mask, employees must first contact [Cathy Metz](#) in Human Resources or students must contact [Chris Amidon](#) in the Student Health Center. Any religious protections under Title VII or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be respected.

FAQs

Do I have to wear a face covering or mask in my office or sleeping room?

If you are alone in your office or sleeping room, you are not required to wear a face mask. Students with roommates will not need to be masked when they are sleeping if their beds are separated at safe distances as set up by the College.

Will I be issued a face covering or mask since the College is requiring me to wear one?

Yes. The College will issue every student and employee on campus two face masks beginning in mid-July or when they return to work or school.



Can I wear my own face covering or mask instead of the one issued to me from the College?

Yes, you can. You do not have to wear the one issued by the College. A scarf or bandana can be worn instead. It must cover your nose and mouth, similar to a mask.

Will I receive training on the proper way to wear a face covering or mask?

Please follow the [CDC guidelines](#) for properly putting on, wearing and taking off a mask – note that you should wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after removing your mask.

Can I reuse my cloth face covering or mask?

Yes. It is recommended that it is laundered regularly using soap and hot water. Do not wear a wet face covering or mask.

What is the best way to clean my face covering or mask?

A washing machine can be used to clean the face covering or mask. You may wash your mask with your own laundry. Masks can be hand-washed in the sink using soap and hot water; allow it to air dry in a ventilated space.

What if I lose my face covering or mask, or it is damaged, or left at home?

Please go to the bookstore to purchase a replacement. The bookstore will have stock by mid-July.

Can I refuse to wear a face covering or mask?

Only if there is a reasonable explanation. Employees must notify Cathy Metz at hr@wabash.edu and students must notify College Nurse Chris Amidon amidonc@wabash.edu beforehand. Religious protections under Title VII or accommodations through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be respected.

Who should not wear a face covering or mask?

All individuals on campus must wear a face covering or mask. If you cannot wear a protective mask due to a medical issue, like trouble breathing or you are unable to remove the cover without assistance, an exception will be made.

Can I get in trouble if I do not wear a face covering or mask?

Yes. If it is determined that you are to wear a face mask and you refuse, you will be subject to discipline.

What are my options if someone doesn't have a face covering or mask on near me?

Remind the individual of the requirement for a face covering or mask. Direct them to the bookstore where they can pick up their own face covering or mask. If the individual continues to ignore these guidelines, please contact hr@wabash.edu or the Dean of Students' Office.

Do I still have to practice social distancing while wearing a face covering or mask?

Yes. Wearing cloth face coverings is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The [CDC still recommends](#) that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people, perform frequent hand cleaning, as well as other everyday hygienic preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.