Use and Care of Face Coverings

Cloth or disposable face coverings are required in all University public spaces to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Currently there is insufficient data to approve the use of a face shield in lieu of a cloth or disposable face covering for most people. Face shields are a type of personal protective equipment (PPE), primarily designed to protect the individual wearing the shield.

Use of Face Shields with Face Coverings
In situations when instructors and students cannot maintain appropriate physical distance from one another due to the nature of the coursework, it is recommended that face shields be worn with face coverings. In this case, both individuals will wear a face shield (or safety glasses/goggles) with a cloth or disposable face covering. Face shields are also used with N-95 respirators or surgical masks in numerous clinical and healthcare situations at the University.

Use of Face Shields without Face Coverings
Face shields can be worn without face coverings only if an instructor has been contacted by Disability Services about a student needing an accommodation.
- If you are an instructor wearing a face shield while lecturing, ensure that you maintain a distance of approximately eight to ten feet from all students in the class at all times.
- If you are working with a student who has an accommodation and you would rather use a cloth face covering with a clear window, please contact Disability Services to obtain one.

If a student or employee is medically unable to wear a cloth or disposable face covering they must contact Disability Services at (208) 282-3599 to discuss appropriate accommodations.

If an instructor does not have an accommodation for themselves or a student in their class, they must wear a cloth or disposable face covering. This is a change in policy and is based on recent studies that have demonstrated that clear face shields are potentially less effective than masks. As an alternative, cloth face coverings with clear windows are available for instructors. To obtain a cloth face covering with a window, contact Disability Services or submit a request through the Bengal Depot COVID-19 Supplies and Signs Form.

Care and Maintenance
- Read and follow manufacturer instructions on properly fitting, wearing and caring for your face shield.
- Adjust shield to ensure comfortable fit and snugness around the forehead.
- Ensure that the shield extends below the chin and wraps around the face.
- A gap between the forehead and face shield should be avoided.
- Clean with mild soap and water and dry with a clean soft cloth.
- Sanitize with an EPA registered disinfectant approved for the virus that causes COVID-19. (Sanitizing wipes provided by Bengal Depot meet this requirement). Do not use peroxide or bleach based products as they may damage the face shield. Test a small area first, to prevent damage.
- A thin coating of dish soap can be used, if needed to prevent fogging.
- Discard if damaged.