Use and Care of Face Shields

Cloth 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 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
There are only 2 situations where a face shield can be worn without a face covering.

1. USE BY EMPLOYEES OR STUDENTS WHO ARE MEDICALLY UNABLE TO WEAR A FACE COVERING.
   These individuals must contact ISU Disability Services at (208) 282-3599 to request an accommodation.

2. USE BY INSTRUCTORS DURING IN-PERSON LECTURING
to enhance the classroom experience and/or to ensure that individuals needing to read lips or who have similar ADA accommodations are being served appropriately. A minimum physical distance of 6 feet between instructor and students, must be maintained at all times during lecturing. If space allows, a physical distance of 8 feet should be maintained.

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.