

Guidance and Use Case Scenarios for Face Coverings and PPE

Face Covering Guidance

<p>All faculty, staff, students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings are not personal protective equipment (PPE), like surgical masks and N95 respirators. • Face coverings protect others in case you are unknowingly transmitting COVID-19 without apparent symptoms. • Use of a face covering does not replace the need to remain 6 feet away from others, practice good hand hygiene, avoid sitting across from others, especially in break rooms or eating areas, and follow other COVID-19 mitigation practices. • A cloth face covering (may be self-supplied and re-used) or a disposable face mask must be worn into the building until the time of exit from the building, except while eating or in an enclosed private (single occupancy) office. • Masks with one-way valves (i.e., plastic disk on mask) do not protect others. One-way valves allow your breath to be shared with the public, as if you are not wearing a face covering. • Use of face coverings is encouraged during the entire commute for personnel taking public transport or ride sharing service.
<p>Personnel in laboratories or other areas with established PPE requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain all previously established lab- or area-specific requirements for PPE: lab coats, gloves, eye protection. • Face coverings do not protect individuals performing procedures involving risk of splash or spray of chemical or biological agents. • Face coverings are not a substitute for any established PPE.

Face Covering, Social Distancing, and PPE Guidance for Special Use Cases

<p>Clinical research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow UPMC's Wolff Center PPE standards (https://covid19research.pitt.edu/media/ko4jawwb/covid-19_pitt_research_general_upmc_guidelines.pdf)
<p>Aerosol generating clinical research procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement standards for healthcare workers performing aerosol generating procedures. Document or update all existing procedures to include PPE and other mitigation. If N95s are required and not available, reschedule procedure.
<p>Animal surgeries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement established PPE of surgical mask, sterile gown, and sterile gloves. Add eye protection or face shield when procedure involves 2 or more researchers. • Personnel who spend more than 15 minutes within less than 6 feet of each other must log the interaction.
<p>Tight spaces or close-proximity work activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit occupancy in room and remain six feet apart is the default. When this is not possible, add safety glasses or face shield to disposable mask. Homemade or self-supplied face coverings are not adequate in this situation. • Personnel who spend more than 15 minutes within less than 6 feet of each other must log the interaction.

Face Covering, Social Distancing, and PPE Guidance for Special Use Cases

Interacting with Research participants (on-campus or off-campus)

- If participants are members of a population that is vulnerable for complications from COVID-19, evaluate options for rescheduling study visits or study participation.
- Prior to visit, participant should complete COVID-19 screening questions; reschedule study visit whenever affirmative responses are received for symptoms, known exposure or travel of concern.
- Restrict study visit to only those who are essential, and only the study team members necessary to carry out the research activities should be present.
- If participants cannot wear face masks for study participation (e.g., face tracking), researchers must wear eye protection and disposable face mask; and whenever possible, remain behind a barrier or use video communication from another room.
- Refer to your school’s research restart guidelines for PPE use for studies requiring physical contact or close interaction with research participants.
- Consider using video or audio conversations with individuals in different rooms for non-contact portions of study visit to minimize in-person contact.

Off-campus studies

- Comply with any local safety protocols required at the study location. At a minimum, follow Pitt guidance for use of face coverings, and where previously advised by EH&S, established PPE.
- Check relevant travel advisories.
- Individuals who have traveled from an area of the US that remains under stay-at-home orders or who have travelled internationally within the last 14 days, must quarantine for 14 days away from campus and research sites.

Arts with singing, or brass and woodwind instruments

- Practice/participate alone with door closed.
- Employ video monitoring and remote research/instruction.
- Six foot physical distancing requirement may not provide adequate protection when indoors.
- Large and small ensemble rehearsals should be postponed or performed remotely if possible, with the acknowledgement that remote technology may not be feasible.
- Consider moving rehearsals outdoors while maintaining a minimum of 6 feet between individuals.

Theater arts

- Use face coverings, and rehearsals/workshops should be held in groups of 25 persons or less.
- All personnel should remain 6 feet apart from other persons, as much as possible.