### Guidance and Use Case Scenarios for Face Coverings and PPE

#### Face Covering Guidance

| All faculty, staff, students | • 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.  
| Personnel in laboratories or other areas with established PPE requirements | • 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

| Clinical research | • Follow UPMC's Wolff Center PPE standards ([https://covid19research.pitt.edu/media/ko4jawwb/covid-19_pitt_research_general_upmc_guidelines.pdf](https://covid19research.pitt.edu/media/ko4jawwb/covid-19_pitt_research_general_upmc_guidelines.pdf))  
| Aerosol generating clinical research procedures | • 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.  
| Animal surgeries | • 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.  
| Tight spaces or close-proximity work activities | • 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.