

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

<b>Face Covering Guidance</b>	
<b>All faculty, staff, students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face coverings are <b>not</b> personal protective equipment (PPE), like surgical masks and N95 respirators.</li> <li>• Face coverings protect others in case you are unknowingly transmitting COVID-19 without apparent symptoms.</li> <li>• Use of a face covering <b>does not</b> 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.</li> <li>• A cloth face covering (may be self-supplied and re-used) or a disposable face mask must be worn at all times while on any University of Pittsburgh campus, except while eating or in an enclosed private (single occupancy) office.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Use of face coverings is required during the entire commute for personnel taking public transport or ride sharing service if mandated by the carriers.</li> </ul>
<b>Personnel in laboratories or other areas with established PPE requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain all previously established lab- or area-specific requirements for PPE: lab coats, gloves, eye protection.</li> <li>• Face coverings do not protect individuals performing procedures involving risk of splash or spray of chemical or biological agents.</li> <li>• Face coverings are not a substitute for any established PPE.</li> </ul>

<b>Face Covering, Social Distancing, and PPE Guidance for Special Use Cases</b>	
<b>Research performed in clinical spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow UPMC's Wolff Center PPE standards (<a href="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</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Aerosol generating research procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For any research performed in a setting that is directly under control of a hospital or other state-approved healthcare facility: 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.</li> <li>For research performed in any setting not under control of a hospital or other state-approved healthcare facility: any aerosol-generating research that requires close contact with a participant who is not wearing a minimum of a face covering (e.g. an exercise study where a face covering is contra-indicated, spirometry, sputum induction, singing or shouting) <i>and</i> where the participant and researcher will be less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes cumulative must be postponed unless permitted by guidance from the IRB. If such research is permitted additional measures including assessment of research space ventilation and additional PPE (e.g. a properly fit-tested N95 respirator and face shield) are required.</li> </ul>
<b>Animal surgeries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement established PPE of surgical mask, sterile gown, and sterile gloves. Add eye protection or face shield when procedure involves 2 or more researchers.</li> <li>Personnel who spend more than 15 minutes within less than 6 feet of each other must log the interaction. It is recommended that personnel record the date, beginning and end time of the interaction, as well as the names of all personnel involved when an interaction meets the definition of a close contact (less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes, cumulative).</li> </ul>
<b>Tight spaces or close-proximity work activities, including laboratory bench-work, work in animal research spaces, and interactions with human research participants (both on- and off-campus activities)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit occupancy in room and remain six feet apart is the default. In situations where limiting room occupancy and remaining six feet apart is not possible, personnel (and human research participants, if applicable) should add safety glasses or a face shield to disposable surgical mask. Homemade or self-supplied face coverings are not adequate in this situation.</li> <li>Personnel (and human research participants, if applicable) who spend more than 15 minutes cumulative within less than 6 feet of each other must log the interaction.</li> <li>Researchers resuming Tier 3 research with human participants outside of clinical settings must inform personnel and participants that close contact (less than six feet apart in excess of 15 minutes cumulative) will occur. If personnel or participants develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or are confirmed to be COVID-19 positive, current CDC quarantine procedures will be implemented for researchers and/or research participants.</li> </ul>

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

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

- The University IRB determines which types of research with human participants may resume and may require additional mitigation measures not described in this document. Researchers must consult the Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) FAQ for conduct of research involving human subjects (<https://www.hrpo.pitt.edu/covid-19-human-subject-research-faq-0>) to find definitions of study tiers and guidance linking study tiers that may be resumed to specific University operating postures. Adherence to all institutional guidelines and/or restrictions is required.
- If participants are members of a population that is vulnerable for complications from COVID-19, evaluate options for rescheduling study visits or determine if alternate methods of study participation could be used to minimize in-person interactions.
  - Consider conducting interviews remotely
  - Consider modifying sample distribution and/or retrieval procedures such that no entry into off-campus location or direct interaction with subject is required (e.g. no-contact drop off and pick up).
  - Consider using video or audio conversations with individuals in different rooms for non-contact portions of study visit to minimize in-person contact.
- If an in-person visit is required, the 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 surgical mask; and whenever possible, remain behind a barrier or use video communication from another room.
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#### 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 outside of the state, or to an area that remains under stay-at-home orders should follow current University guidance for travel-based quarantine (Office of Policy Development and Management COVID-19 Standards and Guidelines; <https://www.policy.pitt.edu/university-policies-and-procedures/covid-19-standards-and-guidelines>).

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

<b>Arts with singing, or brass and woodwind instruments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practice/participate alone with door closed.</li><li>• Employ video monitoring and remote research/instruction.</li><li>• Six foot physical distancing requirement may not provide adequate protection when indoors.</li><li>• Large and small ensemble rehearsals should be postponed or performed remotely if possible, with the acknowledgement that remote technology may not be feasible.</li><li>• Consider moving rehearsals outdoors while maintaining a minimum of 6 feet between individuals.</li></ul>
<b>Theater arts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use face coverings, and all performers in rehearsals/workshops should remain 6 feet apart, particularly for events held indoors. Note that six foot physical distancing may not provide adequate protection when projecting voice/speaking loudly indoors and maximum room occupancy may need to be reduced to accommodate a minimum of 6 feet between individuals.</li></ul>