

SUBJECT:	COVID-19 Face-Masking
REVIEWED/REVISED:	6/16/20; 8/13/20; 9/21/20
RELATED POLICY:	MHS Universal Masking Policy
PURPOSE:	This protocol seeks to minimize the spread of COVID-19. It is important to stay home when you are sick.
POLICY OWNER:	VP Institutional Effectiveness

A mask must be worn while in all campus areas, including while entering or exiting campus buildings and in lobbies, hallways, stairwells, cafeteria/dining areas, elevators, office settings, engagement and study settings, classrooms, breakrooms, and meeting rooms. Gaiter-style masks and bandanas do not meet face-masking guidelines. Limited exceptions to the face-masking requirement include while eating and drinking with appropriate distancing, in an outside campus area, in an office alone or faculty/staff delivering in class instruction if able to maintain proper physical distancing.

For hospital and clinical settings, a procedural mask and eye protection are required. Due to the close proximity necessary between students and instructors for learning and skills development in campus labs and simulation areas, eye protection and procedural masks are also required for campus labs and simulation areas. Cloth face coverings are not an acceptable substitute for procedural masks in lab, hospital and clinical environments, but are preferred in non-clinical settings.

Residents of campus housing are not required to wear a facemask while in their own units, but facemasks should be worn in all common areas housing buildings (hallways, laundry rooms, storage areas, etc.)

NMC's face-masking policy is meant to supplement the Physical Distancing Guidelines currently in effect, which strongly recommends maintaining a six-foot distance from others whenever possible. Facemasks are not a substitute for physical distancing. Cloth facemasks ideally should be made of washable materials so they can be kept clean and reused, as recommended by the CDC and other public health agencies. Anyone coming to NMC should bring and wear a facemask. Cloth facemasks will be available in the Bookstore for purchase.

Facemasks are required for children five (5) years or older and prohibited for children two (2) years or younger, as they can cause suffocation. These guidelines may be revised as conditions continue to evolve.