INFORMATION: Provide up-to-date CDPH face mask and face covering guidance to designated CSUCI employees, students, visitors and contractors on campus.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY ISSUE(S):
On April 3, 2020, the Cabinet was briefed on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for the use of cloth face coverings. Per the briefing, face covering guidance was provided to all designated CSUCI employees who were working on campus.

CDPH has since provided further guidance for the use of cloth face coverings by the general public when outside the home. It does not substitute for existing guidance about social distancing and handwashing. This document should be provided to all designated CSUCI employees, students, visitors and contractors who are on campus no later than Monday, August 03, 2020.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
April 3, 2020 Cabinet Briefing on Face Coverings
CDPH Face Mask and Face Covering Guidance

CURRENT UPDATE: N/A
SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS:

CDPH Face Mask and Face Covering Guidance

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has provided guidance for the use of face masks and cloth face coverings by the general public when outside the home. It does not substitute for existing guidance about social distancing and handwashing. Officials recommended that people not wear N-95 or surgical masks, noting that this gear should be reserved for health care workers.

Until new guidance is issued by state or county health officials, the following guidelines must be followed by all CSUCI employees, students, visitors and contractors who are present at our University:

- Coronavirus spreads when an infected person speaks, sneezes, or coughs within 6 feet of others. You may have the virus and spread it even if you feel well.

- **To prevent infection, you must cover your nose and mouth when outside your home.** So wearing a mask is now required statewide. Wearing a mask or cloth face covering can slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting the release of virus into the air. It also reinforces physical distancing, and shows you care about the health of others.

- **Don’t wear your mask under your nose or just on your chin.** A mask is only effective if it covers both ways you breathe.

- Read the official [mask guidance from the California department of Public Health](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/PandemicPrep/SCIENCE/COVID19Guidance/Pages/FAQ-FacemasksCVR.aspx).

Here is some advice about when you should wear a mask, and what mask to choose:

**Who needs a mask?**

- Anyone going outside their home
- Workers in customer-facing industries
- Workers in offices, factories, or any group setting
- Doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals
- Other workers, as dictated by [industry guidance](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/PandemicPrep/SCIENCE/COVID19Guidance/Pages/FAQ-FacemasksCVR.aspx)

**Who should not wear a mask?**

- Children under 2 years old
- Anyone with respiratory issues where it would impede their breathing
- Anyone unable to remove the mask without help
- Anyone with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that does not allow them to wear a mask

See a [complete list](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/PandemicPrep/SCIENCE/COVID19Guidance/Pages/FAQ-FacemasksCVR.aspx) of who should not wear a mask.

**Note:** Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
When should you wear a mask?

You should wear a mask or face covering whenever you will be around someone you don’t live with, including:

- In any indoor public space
- When waiting in line
- When getting health care
- On public transportation or when ride-sharing
- At work, when near others or moving through common areas
- Outdoors, if you can’t stay 6 feet away from others

When can you take off your mask?

There are times when it’s okay to take your mask off when you’re away from home, such as:

- When eating or drinking
- If a hearing-impaired person needs to read your lips
- If wearing a face covering imposes a risk to you at work – for example, if it could get caught in machinery
- When you’re not sharing a common area, room or enclosed space with others
- When you are getting a service to the nose or face
- When outdoors in public and can stay six feet from others

You should replace or wash the mask/face covering (if washable) as soon as you can after these activities to reduce the risk of infection.

Kinds of masks

There are many kinds of masks, but these are the 3 most common.

Cloth mask or face covering

This is cloth used to cover the nose and mouth, tied behind the head, or secured over the ears with elastic loops. It is made of cotton, silk, linen, or neoprene, and can be machine-made or hand-sewn. A homemade version can be improvised from a scarf or t-shirt. It should be made of tightly woven fabric.

Most people should wear a cloth mask. This is so there can be enough surgical masks and N95 respirator masks for medical personnel.

Wearing a cloth face covering doesn’t take the place of physical distancing. It is effective when combined with keeping a 6-foot distance from others.
Use and care: Wear a clean mask every time you go out. Wash in the laundry or by hand between uses. See more mask care instructions from the California Department of Public Health.

Where to find: Many online sellers now offer masks in a variety of materials. You can also make your own. Read how in this cloth mask guidance from the CDC.

Surgical mask

This is a manufactured disposable mask, often used in surgery. Medical personnel wear them for protection against fluid splashes.

Some non-medical workers also wear surgical masks for disposability and fluid protection. They include those who work in:

- Manufacturing
- Food processing
- Community/social services
- Social work
- In-home day care
- Law enforcement/public safety
- Schools

Don’t buy surgical masks for personal use. They are part of PPE needed by medical professionals.

Use and care: Start with a new mask every day. Replace and dispose of it according to your workplace guidelines.

Where to find: If you are in one of the above industries, your employer should provide surgical masks at work. If you’re a frontline employer and need to order them for your workers, see how to get PPE.

N95 respirator mask

This is a mask with a respirator that blocks 95% of particles that are otherwise inhaled. Medical personnel need them the most, but they’re used by some workers in other industries.
Don’t buy N95 respirator masks for personal use. They are part of PPE needed by medical professionals.

Use and care: Start with a new mask every day. Replace and dispose of it according to your workplace guidelines.

Where to find: If an N95 respirator mask is required for your job, your employer should provide them at work. If you’re a frontline employer who needs them for your workers, see how to get PPE.

See this chart of the various types of masks (PDF) for more details.

Stay informed

- CDC guidance on cloth face coverings
- CalOSHA: Face Coverings, Masks, and Respirators – When to Use Them to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19
- Wear a mask: Images you can share on social media