

MSU Texas Facial Covering Requirement

All members of the MSU Texas Community (students, faculty, staff, visitors, vendors and contractors) are required to wear protective face coverings* on campus or in University facilities as provided below:

I. Requirements

- A. In common areas on campus including, but not limited to, classrooms and other spaces used for teaching, research, and creative activity, student center, library, hallways, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, break rooms, foyers, event rooms and lobbies;
- B. Other areas where physical distancing of at least 6 feet is not maintained. Even when physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained, face coverings are strongly recommended.

II. Exceptions

- A. When eating or drinking, which should still be conducted maintaining physical distance;
- B. In accordance with applicable law (e.g., an accommodation, including for medical reasons, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or pursuant to a bona fide religious belief);
- C. For children under the age of 2 years old; or
- D. By an instructor/presenter in a classroom or event room when a physical distance of at least 10 feet can be maintained from the class members/audience.

With prior University approval, units and departments may set other reasonable guidelines and requirements that are particularly tailored to their specific workplace or learning environment (e.g., residence halls, recreation center, athletics facilities, performance venues, laboratory facilities).

Although failure to comply with this facial covering requirement may lead to disciplinary action, efforts will first be made to educate members of the University Community of the need for facial coverings to control the spread of COVID-19. Warning will be given before disciplinary action is taken.

**A face covering will be defined as a cloth mask or paper filter mask completely covering nose and mouth, with or without a complete face shield made of clear plastic extending from above the eyes to below the chin. A face shield does not substitute for a mask.*

Masks with exhalation valves or vents should NOT be worn to help prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others (source control).

There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control. Therefore, CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks.

Source: [Considerations for Wearing Masks \(CDC, updated 7 Aug\)](#)