

# Central Methodist University

## Face Covering Policy

### July 1, 2020

From CMU's Value Statement:

*"University life emphasizes honesty, integrity, civility, and a strong sense of personal responsibility as integral elements of character and leadership. Central Methodist University nurtures a spirit of community and caring among students, faculty, and staff."*

#### **Overview**

Wearing a face covering is about protecting others, our Central Methodist Community and the communities we work in. The primary purpose of wearing a face covering is to reduce the probability of virus spreading from the wearer (who may not know they are spreading the virus) into the environment and to others. The secondary purpose of the face covering is to reduce the likelihood that large droplets containing virus that are spread by others may enter the nose and mouth of the wearer. The use of a face covering does not replace the continued need to maintain physical distances from others, at least 6 feet, but instead augments physical distancing and helps us further reduce the likelihood of virus transmission.

#### **Description of Face Coverings**

A face covering is a cloth, bandana, or other type of material that covers an individual's mouth and nose. The CDC lists five criteria for "cloth face coverings," which should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be cleaned or laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape.

FDA-approved surgical masks may also be used as a face covering.

\*\*Vented Masks are not approved.

## **Use of Face Coverings:**

Students, Faculty and Staff are required to wear face coverings at all times in the following areas:

- Classrooms
- Academic, Athletic, and Administrative Buildings
- Bergsten Dining Center except while eating or drinking
- Chapel

Staff are required to wear face coverings in the following areas:

- Residential Hallways
- Residential Lobbies

Students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in the following areas:

- Residential Hallways
- Residential Lobbies

Students, Faculty and Staff are required to follow posted instructions for face covering usage, physical distancing, and occupancy limits in the following areas:

Weight Rooms	Athletic Training
Fitness Rooms	eSports Room
Indoor Athletic Facilities	Band, Choir, Music Rooms
Outdoor Athletic Facilities	Science Labs
Locker Rooms	Library
Career Center	The Center for Learning and Teaching

Faculty and Staff with private offices are not required to wear Face Coverings in the office when alone.

Managers and Supervisors of Faculty and Staff in shared office spaces should assess these workspaces and make adjustments as needed to maintain physical distancing and create a safe work environment.

Campus Guests and Vendors should be made aware of the Face Covering Policy prior to arrival on campus and are the responsibility of the host while on campus.

## **Exceptions to the Procedure**

Exceptions/waivers for both areas and individuals will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Employee and visitor requests for accommodations related to a pre-existing medical condition or other disability should be discussed with the manager or supervisor. With manager or supervisor permission, employees may wear face shields to support students with disabilities.

Student requests for accommodations related to a pre-existing medical condition or other disability should be discussed with the Director of the Center for Learning and Teaching.

## **Physical Distancing**

- Maintain 6-foot distancing from other individuals whenever possible.
- Avoid in-person meetings. Use online conferencing, email or phone whenever possible.
- Unavoidable, in-person meetings should be short in length and in a room where participants can keep a distance of 6 feet apart. Classrooms and class sizes have been designed to meet this criterion.
- Whenever possible, limit gathering in shared spaces such as break rooms, copy rooms, or other places where people socialize.

## **Compliance with Face Covering Policy**

- To protect the campus community's health and safety, Central Methodist University is committed to providing awareness and education to all campus constituents surrounding COVID-19. Research has shown that wearing face coverings is one of the most important, potentially life-saving tools which aids in slowing the community spread of COVID-19. All members of the campus community are expected to comply with this policy.
- It will be everyone's responsibility to help create healthy behaviors on campus. Healthy behaviors can be accomplished through a simple reminder from faculty to students before entering the classroom, classmates prompting each other before exiting the cafeteria, or teammates sending a message reminding everyone to bring a mask for bus trips.
- Noncompliance of the face covering policy from CMU employees will be handled through existing faculty/staff disciplinary actions prescribed in the Faculty and Staff Handbooks. All CMU students are subject to judicial processes, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

## How to report a Concern

In the event of a safety concern relating to face coverings, activities or campus areas, please contact the appropriate supervisor, department or RA/RHD. If the supervisor, department, or RA/RHD is not available, please contact Campus Safety.

## How to Properly Wear a Face Covering



**DON'T**

wear your mask  
below your nose



**DON'T**

wear your mask  
low on your nose



**DON'T**

leave your chin  
exposed



**DON'T**

wear your mask  
under your chin or  
temporarily remove  
it in public



**DON'T**

let your mask hang  
loosely with gaps  
around your face



**DO**

wear your mask up  
to the top of your nose  
and under your chin;  
snug and without gaps

Source: San Francisco Department of Public Health