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
- Fitness Rooms
- Indoor Athletic Facilities
- Outdoor Athletic Facilities
- Locker Rooms
- Career Center
- Athletic Training
- eSports Room
- Band, Choir, Music Rooms
- Science Labs
- Library
- 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.

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