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UCI University of California, Irvine

Executive Directive – Face Coverings
Issued by Chancellor Howard Gillman
June 21, 2021

In order to help mitigate possible exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 on property controlled by UCI and to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the UCI community, the following requirements apply.

This Executive Directive ("Directive") supersedes my September 16, 2020 Directive and all prior campuswide guidance regarding face coverings to the extent such guidance is inconsistent with this Executive Directive.

This Directive:

- Applies to:
  - All individuals on UCI controlled property; and
  - UCI employees conducting work off-site when not at their living unit.
- May not apply in some UCI locations, such as the UCI Health System (including UCI Medical Center, Gottschalk Plaza, and other UCI Health clinics) and research laboratories, where stricter face covering or PPE requirements may apply and thereby supersede the requirements of this Directive.
- Is subject to change. Current directives and advisories are available here.

A. Directive:

1. All individuals who are Fully Vaccinated are not required to wear face coverings on UCI controlled property except when:
   a. On public transit, including the Anteater Express;
   b. Indoors in childcare or other youth settings, unless that setting is within a home/apartment/ residence hall room (living unit);
2. All individuals who are not Fully Vaccinated on UCI controlled property must wear a face covering when indoors and not in their living unit unless the individual is:
   a. In an enclosed private space (such as the occupant's private office with the door closed);
   b. Showering, washing their face, or brushing their teeth in a residence hall or other UCI facility with common bathroom facilities (though the individual should maintain at least six feet of physical distance while doing so); or
   c. Eating or drinking, provided individuals are at least six feet apart.
3. All individuals who are not Fully Vaccinated on UCI controlled property are recommended to wear a face covering when outdoors if six feet of physical distance between people cannot be maintained.
4. "Face covering" means a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers. A face covering has no visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric.
5. "Fully vaccinated" means the individual received, at least 14 days prior, either the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine must be U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved; have an emergency use authorization from the FDA; or, for persons fully vaccinated outside the United States, be listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).
6. No individual can be prevented from wearing a face covering on UCI controlled property unless the wearing of a face covering would create a risk to the individual related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

Office of the Chancellor

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7. The requirement for individuals to wear a cloth face covering in this Directive SHALL NOT APPLY to:
   a. Children under the age of two;
   b. Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
   c. Persons with a medical or mental health condition, or developmental disability, that prevents wearing a face covering*;
   d. Anyone actively engaged in strenuous physical outdoor activity, or actively engaged in indoor approved Intercollegiate Athletic activities (while physically practicing or playing), where wearing the cloth face covering could inhibit their ability to breathe, provided they observe other appropriate mitigation measures; or
   e. Anyone performing a specific task which cannot feasibly be performed with a face covering. This exception is limited to the time period in which such tasks are actually being performed.

   * UCI offices must consider requests for reasonable accommodations related to COVID-19 mitigation measures. Technical assistance may be sought from: the Disability Services Center (students) at 949-824-7974 or dsc@uci.edu; Human Resources (employees) via the Employee Experience Center (EEC) at 949-824-0500 or eec@uci.edu; or ada@uci.edu (members of the public).

References/Resources

- Face coverings are available to all faculty, staff, and students through Environmental Health and Safety. Please send an email to safety@uci.edu and indicate your name, UCI affiliation (faculty, staff, or student), and the number of face coverings requested. Face coverings can be picked up at EH&S, located in building 41 on the campus map.
- Upon request, UCI will provide voluntary use respirators, (i.e. N95s), to unvaccinated employees, and to anyone regardless of vaccination status. Prior to receiving an N95, employees must complete a brief training in UC Learning Center (search for "N95 Voluntary Use") and follow the directions on how to obtain them at various locations around campus.
  - More information can be found at: https://ehs.uci.edu/

Support for Directive at the time it was issued includes, but is not limited to:

- California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board Emergency Temporary Standards approved on June 17, 2021;
- Executive Order N-09-21 issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on June 17, 2021;
- California Department of Public Health: Guidance on Use of Face Coverings, effective June 15, 2021
- Orange County Public Health Order dated June 17, 2021, including the reasons for the public health order stated therein;
- Guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including "When You've Been Fully Vaccinated" and "Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education" updated June 4, 2021;
- U.S. Department of Education ED COVID-19 HANDBOOK – Strategies for Safe Operation and Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education Students, Faculty, and Staff, Vol. 3 - 2021.

Authority to issue this directive:

- Regents Standing Order 100.6

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Chancellor Howard Gillman

6/21/2021

Date

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