



*Updates Effective: April 6, 2023*

## **SEATTLE UNIVERSITY FACE COVERING POLICY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

COVID-19 and other illnesses spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets when infected people cough, sneeze, or talk. Evidence shows that when worn correctly, face coverings that cover the nose and mouth reduce an infected person's chance of spreading the infection to others, and that well-fitting face coverings that fit snugly against the sides of the face without air gaps can also help protect the wearer against contracting COVID-19 and other illnesses. Worn properly, specialized filtration face coverings such as N95 and KN95 respirators provide a higher level of protection for the wearer than cloth or procedural masks. Seattle University's Face Covering Policy is intended to follow state, local, and national guidance regarding the use of face coverings.

### **2. APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all Seattle University faculty, staff, students, volunteers, contractors, vendors, and visitors on site at a University location.

### **3. FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS**

Consistent with current conditions, public health requirements, and state and local law and guidance, face coverings are not required to be worn indoors or outdoors by members of the campus community, regardless of vaccination status, except that face coverings may be required to be worn in the Seattle University Student Health Center (SHC), Counseling and Psychological Services office (CAPS), and the Disability Services Office. Campus community members must follow the requirements imposed by these offices for these areas. Additionally, as provided for in Section 4, the University may require face coverings to be worn or otherwise revise its face covering requirements as to all or part of the University campus or University activities based on current conditions, infection rates, public health requirements, and state and local law and guidance.

**Aside from SHC, CAPS, and the Disability Services Office, no person, school, department, class, or program may create their own policy or rule that is more restrictive than or inconsistent with this Policy or the University's current face covering requirements.**

Individuals who are immunocompromised or have underlying health conditions should consult with their healthcare provider for additional face covering recommendations.

Whenever face coverings are not required, faculty, staff and students may nevertheless voluntarily wear face coverings, and should respect the decision of anyone who chooses to wear a face covering on campus in order to prevent exposure to themselves or loved ones.

### **4. POLICY REVIEW**

The University will continue to monitor the environment on campus and in Seattle and King County and will alter this policy and associated guidance based on current conditions, public health requirements, and guidance from state and local authorities.