FACE COVERING POLICY
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY COVID-19 FACE COVERING POLICY

Updates Effective: March 30, 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

Seattle University's COVID-19 Face Covering Policy is adopted pursuant to the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) workplace requirements and guidance for preventing COVID-19, the Washington State Department of Health recommendations, and Governor Inslee’s and recent Proclamation rescinding the statewide mask mandate other than in certain specific settings. This policy is in effect until otherwise modified or rescinded.

COVID-19 spreads 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. 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 and local guidance regarding the use of face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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 are required to be worn in the Seattle University Student Health Center (SHC), the Seattle University Counseling and Psychological Services office (CAPS), the Athletic Training Room, the Disabilities Services office, and at any COVID-19 testing or vaccination site or clinic. Additionally, the University highly encourages wearing face coverings indoors through April 8, 2022, as an added precaution to address possible COVID-19 transmission by community members returning to campus following Spring Break. After April 8, 2022, face coverings are encouraged indoors.

No person, school, department, class, or program may create their own policy or rule that is more restrictive than or inconsistent with this Policy.

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

Although face coverings are not currently required, faculty, staff and students may 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. FACE COVERING AVAILABILITY

The University will make face coverings and/or job-required PPE available to faculty and staff working
on site at a University location. Faculty and staff may also use their own face coverings. Community members are always encouraged to carry a mask while on campus.

5. 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.