COVID-19 Policy on Face Coverings

Responsible Official: Chief Operating Officer
Responsible Office: Office of Administration

Policy Purpose

This emergency policy specifies the requirements for faculty, staff, students, and Guests present on Campus at East Tennessee State University ("ETSU") to wear Face Coverings in classrooms and other indoor areas.

Policy Statement

In accordance with guidance issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), it is the policy of ETSU to require faculty, staff, students, and other persons to wear Face Coverings while present on Campus in classrooms and indoor areas.

If a student is completing ETSU course requirements in organizations external to ETSU (schools, hospitals, clinics, organizations), the student will follow the safety guidelines and protocols in place at those organizations.

I. Face Coverings Required Indoors.

Face Coverings shall be worn on campus while: (1) inside any campus buildings or indoor facilities; and (2) riding the BucShot.

II. Exceptions.

Face Coverings are not required on campus in the following situations:

A. While in one's own private office;
B. While in one's residence hall room;
C. While eating or drinking;
D. While outdoors;
E. While participating in physical activity (e.g. running, swimming, etc.)
F. Due to a medical or other condition (contact Disability Services by telephone at 423-439-8346 or by email at littleme@etsu.edu to request an accommodation);
G. During classroom activities that cannot be completed while wearing a Face Covering may be exempt at the discretion of the faculty member (e.g. playing a wind instrument);

H. Other exemptions on a case-by-case basis as additional information becomes available; and

I. In accordance with the CDC, children under age 2, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the Face Covering without assistance should not wear a Face Covering.

III. **Syllabus Statement.**

Faculty are encouraged include the below statement, or a statement substantially similar, in their syllabi to ensure students are aware of the requirements related to Face Coverings on Campus:

“Please wear a mask or other appropriate Face Covering to class. Wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth communicates the care and respect you have for yourself, the care and respect you have for those you live with, and the care and respect you have for other members of this classroom community. The best evidence we have, from public health professionals, is that wearing masks is one of the best ways to protect against the spread of COVID-19 and other airborne illnesses. Students with medical conditions that inhibit their ability to wear masks should register through disability services by contact Disability Services by telephone at 423-439-8346 or by email at littleme@etsu.edu to request an accommodation. A link to the policy may be found [here](#).

IV. ** Violations of Policy.**

A. Faculty and Staff.

Faculty and staff who violate this policy may be subject to the University’s [Progressive Discipline](#) policy.

Members of the campus community who have concerns related to a faculty or staff member who does not comply with this policy to wear a Face Covering on Campus should respectfully address the concern with the supervisor of the faculty or staff member not wearing a mask. If resolution cannot be achieved, contact the Office of Human Resources at (423) 439-4457.

B. Students.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to the University’s [General Policy on Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions](#). Failure to wear a Face Covering may be
considered Conduct Dangerous to Self or Others, a Disciplinary Offense under Section I1.B.1 of the General Policy on Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions.

Members of the campus community who have concerns related to a student who does not comply with the University requirement to wear a Face Covering on Campus may file an online report to the Dean of Students Office. Additionally, the Dean of Students Office may be reached at 423-439-4210 or via email to Dr. Michelle Byrd at byrdt@etsu.edu.

C. Guests.

Guests who violate this policy may be removed from Campus.

Members of the campus community who have concerns related to a visitor, guest, contractor, or other person (who is not faculty, staff, or student) who does not comply with the University requirement to wear a Face Covering on Campus may contact the Office of Administration at (423) 439-5381.

Authority:
Focus on College and University Success (FOCUS) Act
Policy Development and Administrative Rulemaking
Defined Terms

_A defined term has a specific meaning to this policy._

**Face Covering:** covering that covers both the nose and mouth; may include a cloth face mask, medical mask, scarf, gaiter, bandana, or handkerchief

**Guest:** any person who is not faculty, student, or staff (including, but not limited to visitors, guests, contractors, etc.)

**Campus:** Main Campus; VA Campus; Kingsport Campus (Allandale and Downtown); Sevierville Campus; Valleybrook Campus; Nave Center Campus; Any off-site location where ETSU classes are taught or ETSU classroom activities otherwise occur
FACE COVERINGS

ACCEPTABLE

UNACCEPTABLE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effective Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Form(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Applicability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary: Health and Safety
Secondary: Operations and Facilities