



Health and Safety Directive: Face Masks

Effective Date: September 26, 2022

A. Requirements:

1. All students, faculty, staff, contract workers, and visitors, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated against COVID-19, are required to wear face masks while in:
 - a. AU medical facilities, including but not limited to the Student Health Center, Center for Well-Being Programs and Psychological Services (formerly the Counseling Center), and COVID-19 testing sites; and the Academic Success and Access Center.
 - b. Any location or activity that the university designates as requiring face masks under certain circumstances or as conditions change.

B. Obtaining and Using Face Masks:

1. Individuals referenced in Section A who are required to wear a face covering under this directive and those choosing to wear a mask are encouraged to use a KN95, N95, or KF94 respirator mask for the best protection. See more information about respirator masks at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>.
2. If any student, faculty or staff member needs assistance obtaining face masks, the university will provide them upon request. Distribution sites for the face masks are identified in the [AU COVID Guide](https://www.american.edu/ocl/covid-guide/masks.cfm) at <https://www.american.edu/ocl/covid-guide/masks.cfm>.
3. In addition to ensuring that all employees have access to standard face masks who need them, the university will provide enhanced personal protective equipment at its discretion and in accordance with best practices as set forth by the Center for Disease Control and the DC Department of Health. Employees may contact their supervisors with any questions.
4. Faculty, students and staff are expected to follow best practices when using their KN95, N95, or KF94 masks, including:
 - a. Washing hands or using hand sanitizer before and after handling a face mask;

- b. Ensuring that the face mask fits over the nose and under the chin; and
- c. Avoiding touching the front of the face mask.

C. Enforcement

Failure to comply with this Health and Safety Directive constitutes misconduct that is actionable under the Student Conduct Code, the Staff Personnel Manual, and the Faculty Manual. Repeated violations by students may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from University housing, as well as suspension or dismissal from the University. Repeated violations by employees may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or termination. Any individual on University Property who fails to follow this Directive may be restricted from the premises.