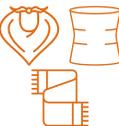


# Recommended Protective Face Mask Guidance

Wear recommended protective face masks at all times when inside university buildings, except when alone in a private office, eating in a campus dining facility or in your own residence hall room. Recommended protective face masks in outdoor spaces are encouraged, especially when social distancing is not possible. All recommended protective face masks should cover the nose, mouth and chin and should be fitted properly. Recommended protective face masks are not a substitute for social distancing, and both strategies should be employed when safely possible.

## Individuals at Low Risk

Individuals at low risk include students, staff and faculty who are in good health and have general minimal on-campus activity levels. Activities may include walking around campus or in buildings and sitting in classrooms where social distancing can be maintained except for brief periods of less than one minute.

ACCEPTABLE	<b>Cloth Mask</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face</li> <li>Be secured with ties or ear loops</li> <li>Include multiple layers of fabric (3 is ideal, with the inner most layer being made of cotton)</li> <li>Allow for breathing without restriction</li> <li>Can be laundered, and should be washed before reuse</li> </ul>
	<b>Disposable Surgical Mask</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contain droplets but do not make a tight seal on the face</li> <li>Available in different thicknesses with different ability to protect (i.e. ASTM Levels)</li> <li>Intended for one-time use, must be disposed of after use</li> </ul>
DISCOURAGED	<b>N95 or KN95 Respirator Masks</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While effective at offering a high level of protection if properly fitted, these types of respirator masks are discouraged as they divert critical resources away from health care workers</li> <li>Need to be properly fitted</li> </ul>
	<b>Neck Gaiter, Bandana, Scarf, T-shirt, or Towel</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly discouraged</li> <li>Limited ability to contain droplets</li> <li>If worn, layering fabric can provide increased protection</li> <li>Should be washed before reuse</li> </ul>
NOT PERMITTED	<b>Mask with Valve</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks with valves should not be used as it can expel exhaled air into the environment, increasing the risk for others</li> </ul>
	<b>Face Shield</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not approved unless worn together with an approved face mask</li> <li>Lack of evidence of efficacy in containing droplets</li> </ul>

## Individuals at High Risk

Everyone is at risk for getting COVID-19 if they are exposed to the virus; however, some people are more likely than others to become severely ill. For more information about conditions that increase risk for COVID-19, see the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov).

UT community members at increased risk who engage in low-risk activities such as walking around campus and sitting in classrooms where social distancing can be maintained except for brief periods are encouraged to wear face masks with increased protective ability, such as ASTM Level 1 disposable surgical masks.

## Individuals in High Exposure Environments

UT community members in higher risk environments are expected to use face coverings with increased protective ability. In general, cloth face masks are not appropriate substitutes for surgical masks or respirators in workplaces where the latter are recommended and available. See the university's [health behavior guidance](#) for more information.

## Special Considerations and Exemptions

UT community members with special considerations may require accommodations. These include medical or psychiatric conditions (e.g. lung disease, severe anxiety) that make it difficult or impossible to safely wear a face mask. There are cases in which faculty may be approved to wear a clear plastic mask if no alternate, satisfactory accommodation is available for students who rely on lip reading. Please refer to the university's [health behavior guidance](#) for more information about special considerations and exemptions.