

Face Mask Policy

Questions & Answers

Ohio Dominican University's policies and procedures for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic are rooted in the safety, health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff, as well as the general public we interact with.

When used properly, face masks can reduce the transmission of COVID-19. In accordance with CDC guidelines and state orders, Ohio Dominican requires that all community members wear a mask in public and shared environments both indoors and outdoors while on campus. In all instances, social distancing must also be maintained.

Please remember that as our knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 evolves, ODU's policies and procedures for responding will be updated and communicated accordingly.

Should I wear a face mask or a face shield?

The CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for face masks. Following this guidance, ODU asks you to wear a face mask unless your job or medical situation prohibits you from doing so. Accommodations for individuals in these situations may be made upon written request.



What if I come to class or a meeting without a mask?

If you come to class without a mask, you will not be permitted into the classroom. Your professor will direct you to one of the designated locations on campus to pick up a disposable mask to wear. Once you have the disposable mask, you will be permitted into the classroom. Likewise, if you come to an office or meeting without a mask, you will be directed to one of the designated locations on campus to pick up a disposable mask to wear.

If I forget my mask, where can I get one?

Designated locations for disposable masks include The Wellness Center, Public Safety, Human Resources, Residence Life, Undergraduate Admissions, Athletics and The Helpdesk.

I have a health condition that makes it dangerous for me to wear a mask. What should I do?

Accommodations for individuals who are not recommended to wear a face mask by their doctor due to health or safety reasons can be made upon written request and review.

If you are a student, please contact Sharon Reed, Dean of Student Life, at reeds@ohiodominican.edu or 614.251.4593. If you are an employee, please contact Amy Thomas, Director of Human Resources, at thomasa3@ohiodominican.edu or 614.251.4597.

What should I do if I see someone on campus who isn't wearing a mask?

Our intention is to maintain an environment of openness and engagement for the entire ODU community. If you see someone who is not wearing a mask, we want you to feel comfortable to gently remind them of our face mask policy on campus. That said, using fear or shaming those who don't wear a mask is ineffective. If you do not feel comfortable approaching someone without a mask, you should feel comfortable letting Public Safety, Human Resources or anyone on ODU's Leadership Team know.

What if someone in my class or office refuses to wear a face mask?

Everyone on campus, including visitors, are expected to comply with the face mask policy unless they have received an accommodation from the Dean of Student Life or Human Resources. Students who fail to comply with the policy may be referred to the Dean of Student Life. Where a student does not have a disability accommodation with the mask policy, faculty reserve the right to ask students who do not comply with the mask policy to leave any academic or laboratory space. Employees who fail to comply with the policy may be referred to their immediate supervisor and Human Resources.

If I'm wearing a face mask, do I still need to stand six feet away from others?

Yes. Wearing a mask, social distancing and hand-washing work synergistically to prevent the spread of COVID-19. When it's challenging to strictly maintain appropriate social distancing, wearing a mask and social distancing together are better than either alone.

Does it matter what type of face mask I choose?

Cloth coverings that cover your nose and mouth are recommended. In addition to traditional face masks, you are invited to use scarves or neck gaiters. When choosing a covering, aim for a tight fit. When you're wearing a surgical mask, the white part goes on the inside and the blue or yellow should go on the outside. The metal piece should be gently pinched over the bridge of your nose to fit closely to your face.

What face mask material is best?

Face masks or coverings made of a natural fiber like cotton are better than those made of synthetic materials, such as nylon or polyester. The layers of fibers in cotton act as a natural filter, helping to prevent droplets from escaping.

Is a more expensive face mask better?

No, and cloth face coverings and surgical masks are equally effective. You don't need to spend a lot of money to be protected.

Is it safe to reuse cloth face masks or face coverings?

You should wear a freshly laundered cloth mask or face covering every day. Cloth can accumulate soil and debris, which could lead to cloth degradation, odors and unsanitary hygiene. It's safe to wash cloth masks with your regular laundry, but you can also hand-wash them in a sink of hot soapy water.

If I take my face mask off (say, in my car after leaving class) how do I safely store it?

You can take your mask off in your car or when you're away from other people. When taking it off, wash or sanitize your hands before and after. Don't put it on the floor or seat of the car. Instead, store it in a brown paper bag or paper envelope. Paper breathes and allows saliva and condensation droplets to dry, while plastic doesn't. Remember, a mask is not sterile, but you want to keep it as sanitary as possible in between uses.

Should I wait until I'm in my car to remove my face mask or can I take it off while walking to my car?

It's more sanitary to put on and take off your mask while inside your car, where you can easily sanitize your hands before and after. Touching door handles or bags are actions that could lead to mask contamination. You also could soil your mask if it's dropped on your way to the car.

Is a mask required while I am exercising?

If you are exercising, you do not need to wear a mask. This applies to both indoor and outdoor activities. Masks should be worn when entering and exiting the Fitness Center or workout facility. While working out, you should also maintain social distancing.

Do I need a face mask when running or out walking?

If you are out in public, you should be prepared to put on a face mask when approaching another individual. If you are walking outside on campus, you are asked to wear a mask at all times. If you are exercising outdoors on campus, you do not need to wear a mask.

Sources: CDC & OhioHealth