

COVID-19 Face Covering Policy
Kentucky Wesleyan College

INTRODUCTION

Keeping a physical distance of at least six feet from other people, practicing good hygiene measures, and staying home when ill are good protections against COVID-19. Wearing a face covering can also help protect others and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone wear a cloth face covering in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain. In Kentucky, individuals over the age of five must wear a face covering while inside or waiting to enter any retail establishment, grocery store, pharmacy, personal care services establishment, child care facility, restaurant, bar, health care provider, transportation services, or any other indoor or outdoor public space where it is difficult to maintain six feet of physical distance from others.

APPLICABILITY

To help ensure the health and safety of the campus community and the public, employees, students, and visitors must wear face coverings while in campus buildings unless specifically exempted (please see below). When using or traveling through public spaces, a covering must be worn even if another person is not immediately visible or present in the space at the time in order to prevent surface contamination. Face covering must also be worn in outdoor settings when six-feet physical distancing cannot be maintained. This face covering requirement is in accordance with federal and state workplace safety requirements and with public health directives. This policy is in effect until otherwise communicated.

FACE COVERINGS

For the purposes of this policy, a face covering means any cloth face covering, such as facemask, bandana, or scarf, that completely covers the nose and mouth, and ties or loops around the ears or the back of the head. It must be secured under the chin and fit snugly against the sides of the face.

The College has a limited supply of disposable face coverings for employees and students to use while on campus. The school will issue washable face masks to students and has issued washable masks to employees. Employees and students are responsible for washing reusable face coverings. Face coverings may be made from household items or purchased by employees or students at their cost. If making a mask, please follow the CDC recommendations for them, available on their website. Ski masks and other masks that conceal the entire face are not permitted.

EXEMPTIONS

Face coverings are not required when:

- Outdoors with at least a six-foot of physical distance continually maintained.
- Alone in your personal workspace or office. If someone enters your office and is staying longer than to drop off a document or otherwise pass through, you must put on a face covering unless there is a plexiglass barrier between you and them or there is six feet of physical distancing.

- In your private residential room or unit alone, with family members, or with other considered as family members (e.g., roommates).
- In your personal vehicle alone, with family members, or with other considered as family members (e.g., roommates). If you are in a shared College vehicle, a face covering must be worn to minimize surface contamination.
- Student athletes participating in a College sponsored activity will not have to wear a mask as per following medical recommendations for these events.
- Eating or drinking with the required six-foot physical distance between people.
- Communicating with someone who uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication. A clear face shield is recommended in such situations.
- Advised by a medical professional that wearing a covering may pose a health risk or adversely impair your ability to breathe.
- Physically unable to put on or remove a face covering without assistance. This includes children under age two due to the risk of suffocation.

Additional exemptions will be determined on an individual basis. Employees and students may be required to provide documentation to substantiate their need for an exception. Face coverings do not replace required job-specific personal protective equipment (e.g., respirators).

TRAINING

Employees and students are required to complete training related to COVID-19 through an online learning platform called Safe Colleges Training. The modules that must be completed include Coronavirus Awareness, Coronavirus: CDC Guidelines for Making and Using Cloth Face Coverings, and Coronavirus: Managing Stress and Anxiety.

POLICY ENFORCEMENT

Everyone who comes to campus is expected to observe follow this face covering policy for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues, and the campus community and to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Employees are expected to comply with this face covering policy as a condition of their employment, and students are expected to comply as a condition of their education.

If someone on campus is not following this policy, a polite verbal request for compliance should be made to educate and encourage the person to wear a face covering. If the person refuses to comply, that person's supervisor (in the case of an employee) or Student Life (in the case of a student) may be contacted to further substantiate the need for compliance and/or that person may be denied access to areas, denied entry into classrooms, denied participation in programs or activities, made to leave campus, and/or be subject to disciplinary action. Given the extent of this pandemic, it is hoped that everyone on campus will understand the reason for this policy and comply accordingly.