

TAMU HSC Enhanced Requirements for Face Coverings

The following requirements for face coverings have been approved by leadership of the TAMU Health Science Center, College of Nursing, and College of Medicine.

These face covering requirements are drawn from and augment updated recommendations by the [CDC](#)¹, the [AAMC consensus guidance on face coverings](#)^{2,3}, and TAMU [Standard Administrative Procedure 34.99.99.M0.03](#)⁴ which states:

“In light of CDC guidance, and to protect your fellow Aggies against COVID-19, face coverings (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be worn by all individuals (faculty, staff, students, and visitors) on campus in the following areas: (1) **indoor public areas** on campus, except where marked otherwise, **even if you are alone** (includes all non-private office or residential spaces such as lobbies, restrooms, classrooms, teaching laboratories, research laboratories, common spaces in residence halls, conference rooms, and break rooms); and (2) outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. This policy will be amended as needed in response to conditions on campus.”⁴

Given the elevated level of traffic and at risk populations on/around our HSC campuses, HSC requirements state that appropriate face coverings **must be worn at all times**:

1. While walking on all sidewalks, and walkways where a minimum of 10 feet of distance can't be maintained due to pedestrian movement.
2. Within 20 feet of all entrances/exits for all HSC buildings.
3. While under any outdoor overhang or porte-cochere.
4. Within the bounds of any open outdoor social areas.
5. Within high traffic transitional areas including places like the [MREB loading dock](#).
6. While indoors other than in [private non-shared offices](#) as per [TAMU policy](#).⁴

This includes:

- a. Lobbies, hallways, conference rooms, and restrooms.
- b. Study areas, study carols, study rooms, and libraries.
- c. Classrooms and teaching laboratories.
- d. Research laboratories.
- e. Indoor common dining areas or break rooms unless 6 feet of social distance at all times.
- f. [Eating/drinking](#) with others elevates one's probability of [high-risk exposure](#) and are [not allowed in teaching classrooms](#) as per messaging from the Office of the Provost dated August 18, 2020. When not feasible to maintain six feet of separation based on space limitations, meals should be taken outside once again respecting a minimum of six feet separation between individuals.

Violations of these face covering requirements among faculty or staff should be reported to the individual's supervisor as per [TAMU policy](#) further detailed in the [Provost's FAQ's](#) regarding face coverings.^{4,5}

Violations of these face covering requirements by students should be reported per the TAMU [Student Life policy](#).⁶ Such violations may result in consequences ranging from written reprimand to “more serious sanctions”.

Note: The safest rule is for HSC members to put on their mask before exiting their vehicle and wear it appropriately at all times when outdoors until they return to their vehicle to depart.

Footnotes:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
2. <https://www.aamc.org/covidroadmap/masks>
3. <https://www.aamc.org/system/files/2020-08/aamc-covid-19-consensus-guidance-on-face-coverings.pdf>
4. <https://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/34.99.99.M0.03.pdf>
5. <https://provost.tamu.edu/Menu/News/TAMU-Face-Covering-FAQs#waniflogrwp3>
6. <https://studentlife.tamu.edu/sco/face-covering-violations/>