

Student Face Coverings - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: When do students need to wear face coverings?

A: In accordance with the [Contra Costa Health Services Order](#) released on August 2, all people must wear face coverings when indoors. Face coverings are required indoors regardless of a person's vaccination status. This does not apply to people in the following circumstances:

 - When alone in a room
 - When actively eating or drinking
 - When swimming or showering
 - When receiving care or other service that requires removal of the face covering
 - When exempt from wearing face coverings under the [State Face Covering Guidance](#) or other applicable California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance.
2. Q: Does the requirement to wear a face covering also apply in large rooms and open spaces in buildings (e.g., libraries, student services lobbies, etc.)?

A: Yes. The requirement applies to all indoor spaces, unless one of the exemption criteria outlined in #1 applies.
3. Q: How are students being informed about the requirement that they wear a face covering indoors?

A: Students are being informed about this requirement in a number of ways including, but not limited to, the following:

 - Signs on the outside of buildings and in classrooms
 - College and District websites
 - Emails sent to InSite student email addresses
 - Text messages
4. Q: What should I do if a student claims that they have a medical reason that exempts them from wearing a mask?

A: Inform the student that they need to request an accommodation from the Disabled Student Services (DSS)/Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) office. Provide the student with the DSS/DSPS phone number and request that they call the office outside the building.
5. Q: Can employees enforce the requirement that students wear face coverings indoors? What are the consequences if a student refuses to wear a face covering?

A: Yes, employees can and should enforce the requirement that students wear face coverings. #7 provides step-by-step instructions for how employees should assist with enforcement. Students who do not comply with the requirement to wear a face covering will be subject to sanctions based on the 4CD Student Code of Conduct.
6. Q: Whose job is it to make sure that students wear face coverings?

A: This responsibility is shared by all employees, just as we all contribute to providing a safe teaching and learning environment for our students, and a safe workplace for ourselves and our colleagues.

7. Q: What should I do if I see a student not wearing a face covering inside a building?
A: If you see a student not complying with the requirement to wear a face covering when indoors, please follow these steps **PRIOR** to contacting Police Services.
1. If possible, take the student to a private space to speak and ask that they student put on a face covering as required by county health officials. If the student does not have a face covering, provide them with a disposable face covering.
 2. If the student refuses to put on a face covering, ask for and record the student's name and ID number. Inform the student that they are required to leave the building immediately.
 3. If the student refuses to leave the building, explain that they will be subject to Student Code of Conduct sanctions and will be required to leave campus. If the department/program manager is immediately available, they should be asked to assist in this stage of response.
 4. If the student continues to refuse to wear a face covering or leave campus, you may call Police Services for support to assist in responding to the situation. **As a reminder, please note that calling Police Services should be a last resort.**
 5. If the student refused to wear a face covering or to leave the area, please notify your college Student Conduct Officer of the incident and provide the student's name and ID number. The conduct officer will follow up with the student directly.
Note: The Student Conduct Officer may not be able to respond immediately, and adjudication of the conduct case may take several days.
8. Q: What should I do if I do not feel safe approaching a student who is not wearing a face covering indoors?
A: If you do not feel comfortable speaking with a student, request assistance from another employee or a manager. At no time should any employee feel obligated to put themselves in a situation in which they feel unsafe.
9. Q: Are there concerns that requiring students to wear face coverings may have a negative impact on enrollment?
A: While enrollment remains a concern for the colleges and the District, the health and safety of students and employees is of primary importance. Requiring students to wear face coverings when indoors helps to promote safe teaching and learning environments for all.
10. Q: I am aware that many of our students are uncomfortable with Police Services, and with law enforcement in general. Is not wearing a face covering a serious enough offense to justify contacting Police Services?
A: Police Services should only be contacted as a last resort, after other employees have not been successful in deescalating the situation. While we always want to be sensitive to the fact that the communities that we serve may not have positive relationships with law enforcement, we are obligated to safeguard the health and safety of students and employees, and to uphold the county's face covering mandate.
11. Q: I am an ESL faculty and need to be able to see my students' mouth/full face in order to provide quality instruction. How should I, and other faculty whose discipline requires the ability to see students' mouths, handle this situation?

A: If your discipline requires that you be able to see your students' full face in order to provide quality instruction, please notify your academic dean. Each college is procuring a small supply of clear face coverings to address this need.

12. Q: Who are my college conduct officers?

A: Dennis Franco at Contra Costa College, Emily Stone at Diablo Valley College, and Dave Belman at Los Medanos College.