




## Face Coverings for General Instructional Use

The COVID-19 transmission risk mitigation framework must include a number of layered protocols, each of which supports the overall goal of protecting employee safety, health, and well-being when returning to campus. Face coverings are just one component of this strategy. To minimize risk to students, staff, and faculty, the university will rely on universal face covering and physical distancing requirements.

At this time, the primary route of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is direct contact with an infected person's respiratory droplets during, speaking, breathing, coughing and sneezing. Face coverings and physical distance are critical because prolonged close proximity interaction with an infected person increases the risk of exposure. Based on current guidance, all employees and students will be required to wear either a reusable cloth face mask or a single-use disposable mask while present in any area within campus buildings unless working alone in a laboratory or office space.

Means of instruction that are not compatible with face masks should be extensively evaluated to determine if alternate modes of instruction are available. Considerations include virtual instruction, conducting activities outdoors, incorporating video projection, or isolating the hazard using a physical barrier. Unfortunately, some traditional means of instruction might not be viable at this time due to risk factors.

If instructors would like an additional physical barrier, face shields can be worn in addition to a mask. As noted in Emergency Order #1 and advisement from the Kenosha County Division of Health, a **face shield alone is not adequate for minimizing either inhalation or exhalation of respiratory aerosols in an instructional setting**. In select circumstances, including instructional settings, where having a visible face is essential, such as speech therapy, communication with individuals who require lip reading, interaction with select children, etc., one option is the Badger Shield+, a face shield with an attached cloth that surrounds the face. The Badger Shield+ is an effective option for source control of and personal protection from larger respiratory droplets that are too large and heavy to travel well with air movement. At the initiation of this document the Badger Shield+ has not been proven to provide protection from inhalation of, or prevent the dispersal of smaller aerosolized particulates which can remain suspended in the air over extended periods of time. A well-fitting cloth or disposable face mask will provide some protection from inhalation of both the smaller and larger particles, although this protection varies by fit and material. For this reason, the Badger Shield+ is only recommended for specialty uses, including instructional settings. At a minimum, the options presented in the following table will be available to instructors. If you are unable to wear a face mask, please notify your supervisor.

<p><b>Standard Option:</b> <b>Face mask only</b></p>		<p>Appropriate while present in any area within campus buildings.</p> <p>Suggested use: campus buildings, multiple employees in a University vehicle, outdoor campus spaces when it is not possible to maintain proper physical distancing.</p>
<p><b>Secondary Option:</b>  <b>Face shield with disposable or cloth mask*</b></p>		<p>Appropriate for settings where the Instructor must interact within 6 feet (2 meters) from students on a limited basis.</p> <p>Suggested use: instructors who may start at a podium, but then walk around to check progress with lessons or techniques (e.g., science labs, art studios, programming, etc.)</p> <p>*a microphone is not provided with the face shield, options for audio projection are being reviewed</p>
<p><b>Specialty Use Option:</b>  <b>Badger Shield+</b></p>		<p>For <u>specialty use only</u> in situations where a visible face is the most important factor; not a substitute for a well-fitting face mask for routine use.</p> <p>Potential Use: language instruction, work with children where expression is necessary, speech therapy and situations where lip reading is necessary.</p>

**Reference:**

Office of Governor Tony Evers, [Emergency Order #1 Relating to preventing the spread of COVID-19 by requiring coverings in certain situations](#), July 30, 2020.

UW-Madison Environment, Health & Safety: [Face Coverings for General Instructional Use](#), July 24, 2020.