

WAGNER COLLEGE

Use of Masks or Cloth Face Coverings

Summary

The use of [face coverings](#) is an important component to reducing the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings primarily act to prevent the wearer from spreading disease through droplets from the wearer's mouth and nose, particularly if they are unknowingly infected and either pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic. It is difficult to estimate the percentage of asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers; in addition, it may take several days for individuals with COVID-19 to develop symptoms. Consequently, asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic carriers can spread the virus without realizing they are sick. Wearing a face covering, in combination with other public health measures such as hand washing, daily health monitoring and physical distancing, is necessary¹ to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Guidelines

The following guidelines are in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New York State/City Department of Public Health. These guidelines are also based on emerging findings that COVID-19 disease can be transmitted for at least three to six days before symptoms emerge and/or when people remain asymptomatic.

1. Face coverings must be worn by all students, faculty, and staff in all classrooms, public and shared spaces on campus, and in areas where physical distancing of six feet or more cannot be observed.
2. All students and employees returning to campus on weekly basis will be provided with two Wagner College branded mask at their first on campus testing appointment. Personal face coverings can be used, but must be a solid color with no writing.
3. Individuals in a building space by themselves, such as in an office that is not shared by others, may remove the face covering. It will need to be donned again when leaving.
4. Physical distancing of six feet or more should be maintained as much as possible in all college building spaces and outdoors. Inside buildings, when maintaining a distance of six feet, or two arm's length is difficult, individuals must wear face coverings, avoid prolonged contact or conversation, and move swiftly into a space with lower density.
5. When outdoors, individuals must wear face coverings when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
6. While eating, and when wearing a mask is not possible, individuals must stay at least six feet apart in order to prevent viral transmission.¹

¹ Physical distancing, also referred to as "social distancing," involves maintaining a physical distance of six feet, or two arm's lengths, between persons.

7. All students in the classroom should wear face coverings for the entire class.
8. For individuals unable to wear face coverings due to a health condition or disability, face shields may be used as an alternative. Such individuals should be extra cautious about maintaining physical distancing and observing all other hygiene protocols.
9. In addition to face coverings, other public health precautions must be observed by the whole community, including frequent, thorough hand washing, physical distancing, the implementation of regular cleaning and disinfecting procedures, and encouraging or ²requiring students and staff to stay home when they are sick.

Types of Respirators and Face Coverings 				
	N-95 Respirator	Medical-Grade Surgical Mask	Disposable Face Mask	Face Covering
Description	Designed to protect the wearer from exposure to airborne particles by using layers of filter material. A proper seal between the user's face and the respirator forces inhaled air through the respirator's filter material, thereby providing protection. Available in various sizes needing proper selection.	FDA-approved mask to protect the wearer from large droplets, splashes or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. It helps to contain the wearer's respiratory emissions.	Commercially manufactured mask that helps to contain the wearer's respiratory emissions.	Hand-made or commercially manufactured face covering that helps to contain the wearer's respiratory emissions.
Intended Use	Reserved for healthcare workers, and approved areas and/or task-specific hazards as determined by EHRs.		Face masks and coverings are intended for community use (office spaces, community areas where 6' social distancing cannot be maintained). Not required when working alone in an office.	
Use Limitations	Generally single use, discard when damaged or contaminated. Requires medical clearance and testing for proper fit.	Generally single use, discard when damaged or contaminated. Does not require medical clearance or testing for proper fit.	Generally single use, discard when damaged or contaminated. Face coverings can be reused with proper wash and care. Does not require medical clearance or testing for proper fit.	
Examples				

² Students who require accommodation should contact Center for Academic and Career Engagement (718-390-3181) or cace@wagner.edu. Employees who require accommodation should contact Human Resources, (718-390-3187) or human.resources@wagner.edu.