

Roanoke College Face Covering Policy

Personal safety is a shared responsibility. Current pandemic creates a unique and challenging situation where persons who are sick but do not know it have the ability to spread a virus that is highly contagious. The appropriate use of cloth face coverings or face masks have been found to be a critical step for communities and individuals to take to minimize the risk of transmission of the virus to others near you.

Until further notice, when entering into, spending time in, passing through or exiting a building on campus or any other College controlled buildings employees and students are required to wear either a cloth face covering or disposal mask as outlined herein.

Cloth face coverings are REQUIRED to be worn by all employees and students in the following locations:

- common areas inside all campus buildings and in all other buildings owned or used by the College including hallways, elevators, stairways, meeting rooms, classrooms, training rooms, locker rooms, dining facilities, restrooms, and lounges/break rooms
- common areas of all College provided residence halls, including hallways, elevators, stairways, lounges, another student's room (in apartments and suites), study rooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms
- any other indoor or outdoor areas of campus where social distancing cannot be maintained,
- when traveling by vehicle on College business if there is more than one person in the vehicle and everyone in the vehicle does not live together

Cloth face coverings should only be worn for one day and should be properly cleaned before use again. Having an adequate supply of cloth face coverings can help reduce the need for daily cleaning. See details regarding use and care of cloth face coverings below.

Face masks (disposable or medical grade) may be used if the employee or student prefers them over a cloth face covering, but are not required and should be disposed of properly after use. As mentioned above, cloth face coverings are required.

Type and Intended Use of Face Coverings/Masks



Cloth Face/Bandana/Buff Covering

Home-made or commercially manufactured fabric face coverings that are washable and help contain wearer's respiratory emissions. Face covering designs should be in good taste.

Intended use: To provide a measure of protection to others. Recommended for use in all areas on campus where six feet social distancing cannot be consistently maintained and required in designated areas listed above. Should be washed daily.



Disposable Mask

Commercially manufactured masks that help contain wearer's respiratory emissions are also acceptable

Intended use: To provide a measure of protection to others. Recommended for use in areas where six feet social distancing cannot be consistently maintained and required in designated areas listed above. Should be replaced daily.



Medical-Grade Surgical Mask

FDA-approved masks designed to protect the wearer from large droplets and splashes generated by others and also helps contains wearer's respiratory emissions

Intended use: To provide a measure of protection for wearer and others. These masks are reserved for healthcare workers and others who work in designated areas of campus with task-specific hazards. These masks are designed to be used once before being replaced. The College is not requiring surgical grade masks, except for a few specific work areas on campus.



N95 Respirator

Provide effective respiratory protection from airborne particles and aerosols; helps contain wearer's respiratory emissions

Intended use: Protects wearer and others. These masks are reserved for healthcare workers and others who work in designated areas of campus with task-specific hazards. Before use, all individuals must be properly fitted and trained on the use of these masks in accordance with OSHA standards.

Obtaining a cloth face covering or mask for work

The College will provide each employee with one cloth face covering. Employees are allowed and encouraged to provide your own face coverings and it is recommended you have at least one spare for cleaning purposes. If your College-provided face covering is lost or damaged, request a replacement through your supervisor. If supervisors need to order face coverings or masks for their employees, they should contact Campus Safety.

Obtaining a cloth face covering if you are a student

The Office of Residence Life & Housing (RLH) will provide each student with a face covering. Students are allowed and encouraged to provide their own face coverings and it is recommended you have at least one spare for cleaning purposes. If you are in need of additional face coverings and cannot afford to purchase or make them, RLH has a limited number of extra masks available to students who cannot provide their own. Please contact RLH at reslife@roanoke.edu or 540-375-2308.

Disposable masks will be available around campus to use if an employee or student forgets their cloth face covering. Surgical grade masks and respirators will only be provided to those in areas requiring them, such as Student Health and Counseling and Campus Safety.

**Adapted from the CDC, Rochester University, University of South Carolina, and Duke University policies*

Face Covering/Masks FAQs

Is it mandatory that I wear a cloth face covering?

Yes. Face masks or cloth face coverings are required for all employees and students on campus when indoors and in the presence of others or when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Is it mandatory that I wear a disposable or surgical grade mask?

No. Cloth face coverings are acceptable for all employees and students. Disposable and surgical grade masks are only required for certain employees.

What are the exceptions to wearing a face covering or mask?

Individuals are not required to wear face coverings in residential bedrooms, when they are in the own residential apartment or private office, when actively eating or drinking, when showering or brushing teeth in common bathroom facilities, or if a medical or ADA-related condition prevents them from wearing one in indoor settings. Individuals are encouraged, but not required to wear a face covering with moving about outside on campus as long as the individual is able to maintain social distancing of six feet or more.

How can I make my own cloth face covering?

There are many resources available online with instructions on how to make your own cloth face covering. Here is a link to the [CDC's how-to guide](#).

Can I reuse my mask or face covering?

Cloth masks or face coverings are designed to be reused, but must be washed and cleaned daily to maintain their effectiveness. See all care instructions in the Face Covering Policy.

Where can I get a face covering if I can't get my own?

The College will provide one cloth face covering to each employee and student. For additional information on obtaining masks or coverings, please refer to the Face Covering Policy.

What is the best way to clean my cloth face covering?

Cloth face coverings can be washed and dried in washing machines and dryers. If laundry machines are not available, cloths face coverings can be washed in the sink with mild detergent and air-dried.

What action will be taken if someone does not wear a face covering?

The requirement to wear a face covering or mask is part of a community effort to limit the introduction of the virus and prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19 should the campus be exposed to the virus. Barring a medical or ADA condition that prevents the user from wearing one, the failure to wear a face covering in required areas may be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and/or the College's health and safety rules that also apply to employees, which may result in disciplinary action being taken.

Do I have to wear a face covering or mask in my office?

No. If you have a private office, you do not need to wear a mask or face covering. If you work in an open area, shared workspace, or cubicle, and cannot maintain a six foot distance from others, you are required to wear one.

Do I have to wear a face covering or mask in academic buildings and in class?

Yes. Individuals are required to wear masks or face coverings in academic buildings and classrooms.

Do I have to wear a mask or face covering in my residence hall?

Individuals must wear a mask or face covering in public or shared areas in residence halls. Students do not need to wear a mask or face covering in their own personal bedrooms, residential apartments, or in bathrooms.

Do I still have to practice social distancing if I'm wearing a mask or face covering?

Yes, to the best of your ability. All individuals are encouraged to maintain a six foot distance when possible, regardless of the use of face coverings.

What should I do if I see someone not wearing a mask or face covering?

First, determine if the person is in a location or participating in an activity where a face covering or mask would be required under this Policy. From there, recognize that a person not wearing a face covering or mask may have a medical or ADA condition preventing them from doing so. Medical or ADA conditions are not often obvious. Individuals are discouraged from confronting individuals directly. If you believe that the person should be wearing a face covering or mask and may not have a medical or ADA condition, report the person via our online reporting tool and a staff member will investigate further: https://forms.roanoke.edu/silent_witness.