



Safe and Healthy Buckeyes

Face Mask Compliance Guidelines

Ohio State is committed to a culture of caring and wellness in which all Buckeyes can be at their optimal state of health and well-being. All students, faculty, staff, vendors, volunteers and visitors are expected to comply with the mask requirement. Wearing a mask is part of the larger picture of safe and healthy measures, including physical distancing, good hygiene and staying away from others when ill. If we don't succeed, Together As Buckeyes, we will not be able to be together on campus doing the things we love, including teaching, learning, researching, playing sports and cheering on our student-athletes.

Individuals are encouraged and empowered to respectfully inform others about the requirement in an ongoing effort to support a safe and healthy campus and encourage a culture of shared responsibility. Everyone is expected to support each other to promote adherence to the mask requirement in their areas of responsibility and on the larger campus.

The following steps outline recommended guidelines when encountering an individual in violation of the university's mask requirement:

Step 1: Politely ask if the person(s) is aware of the university mask mandate.

Step 2: If person(s) forgot a mask, direct them to the locations designated by the college or department (e.g., instructors, hall or building location for first two weeks, more centrally designated location thereafter) where they may obtain a mask.

Step 3: Remind the person(s) of the university Together As Buckeyes Pledge. Explain that we all have an obligation to ensure that the whole group is in a safe environment. If the person(s) continues to refuse, simply ask them to leave the facility, bus or other location requiring a mask. Let them know they are welcome back when they are prepared to follow the pledge. In a classroom setting, the instructor may decide to dismiss the class and indicate when the class will reconvene.

Step 4: If refusal to comply continues:

- A known **student** should be reported to [Student Conduct](#) for possible action.
- A known **faculty or staff** member should be reported to their supervisor. Corrective measures may range from additional training and informal coaching up to formal disciplinary action. Formal corrective action/measures should be pursued only as a last resort and when it is clear that there is intent and/or neglect that causes a serious health or safety concern. If supervisors have any concerns about an employee's behavior, they are encouraged to work with their college/unit HR representative or HR Employee and Labor Relations.

- Clearly identified **contractors** (e.g. construction or contracted custodial/maintenance) refusing to comply should be reported to [Facilities Operations and Development](#). The university may require any person/contracted worker who does not comply with mandates to be dismissed from a project.

When an individual's identity is unknown, accountability measures will be limited. The goal is to achieve 100% adherence to the mask requirement by promoting a culture of caring and shared responsibility.

Community members with particular needs for accommodations should contact [Student Life Disability Services](#), the [ADA Coordinator's Office](#) or the [Office of Human Resources](#).