

COVID-19

Scope: Who is Covered by this Policy?

Employees, Students and Visitors

Policy

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Miami University's highest priority is has been the health and safety of its faculty, staff and students. Despite the University's best efforts, it is not possible to eliminate the risk of positive cases or a COVID19 outbreak on our campuses. The University cannot guarantee that persons present on our campuses will not be exposed to or become infected with COVID-19. The risk of exposure and possible infection is real and present in any community environment where large numbers of people regularly interact, including on college campuses. ___

All faculty, staff and students are required to get the COVID-19 vaccination unless they have received an exam according to the COVID-19 Vaccination Program and Policy. The University provides free COVID19 vaccines at Health Services in Harris Hall to all faculty, staff and their families as well as students. Rapid COVID19 testing is also available at Health Services. Take home personal BinaxNow tests are available in residence halls, Armstrong Student Center, the Library, the Recreation Center and other locations across campus.

The University is operating under its Infectious Disease Policy- <https://miamioh.edu/policy-library/employees/general-employment/miscellaneous/infectious-disease.html>. Miami University will continue implementing, to the extent practicable and allowed by law, the directives of the Center for Disease Control, the Ohio Health Department and the Butler County Health District.

~~All faculty~~ Faculty, staff, students and visitors are ~~expected~~ strongly encouraged to ~~comply with these directives and with the University's public health directives and policies. This includes:~~

- ~~1. Wearing perform a face covering as required;~~
- ~~2. Maintaining at least 6' feet of physical distancing whenever possible;~~
3. Performing a daily basic symptom assessment - Symptom Checklist before coming to campus - or going to class - Symptom Checklist - and may not come to campus/go to class if they are ill, have COVID-19 symptoms or have a temperature over 100.

~~We must act to both preserve and promote the health of our community. No one has the right to pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others on our campuses.~~

A. Face ~~Coverings~~ Covering Requirements

Face coverings are critical in minimizing exposure to others. ~~All~~ Effective August 9, 2021 and regardless of vaccination status, all Miami University faculty, staff, students and visitors (including vendors, family members and significant others) are required, subject to the exemptions below, to wear a face covering indoors and outside at all times unless exempted by this policy or the Americans With Disabilities Act on public transportation.

Face coverings, including cloth face coverings or disposable masks must cover both nose and mouth; fit snugly against the sides of the face and secured under the chin per CDC guidance. It is important to note that cloth coverings should be cleaned daily, and disposable masks should only be worn for one day and then thrown away. Also remember to wash your hands using hand washing techniques that include soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer before putting on your face covering or disposable mask and just prior to taking it off.

Individuals who have not been vaccinated are also expected to wear masks outdoors when six feet of physical distance from others cannot be maintained. All faculty, staff, students and visitors are encouraged to wear face coverings outdoors when in groups greater than 10 or when 6' of physical distancing cannot be maintained and should practice other preventative efforts, such as hand-washing and proper physical distancing, covering their mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing, and other preventative measures advised by the Ohio Department of Health at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/cloth-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-workplace>

Exemptions to Face Covering Requirement

1. When a student is alone ~~or~~ with their roommate(s) ~~in their residence hall room, in a community bathroom,~~ or in a dining hall when actively eating. Students are expected to wear masks in common areas.
2. When exercising alone.
3. When an employee is working alone in an assigned work area (a single office or outdoors).
4. When face coverings in the work setting are prohibited by law or regulation.
5. When face coverings are in violation of documented industry standards.
6. When face coverings are in violation of the University's documented safety policies.
7. When there is a functional reason for an employee not to wear a face covering in the workplace and it has been approved in writing by the employee's supervisor and the appropriate personnel office. In those instances, the employee must maintain at least 6' feet and preferably 10' of physical distance from all other persons.
8. Instructional staff have the right to modify the face-covering requirement for limited periods for instructional reasons, if pedagogically necessary (e.g. voice lessons or wind instruments) and the student consents. In those instances, faculty and other students in the class ~~must~~should maintain at least 6' feet and preferably 10' of physical distance from the person not wearing a face covering.

B. ~~Other Preventative Measures~~ Student Surveillance Testing Program

- ~~1. In addition to wearing a face covering, faculty, staff, students and visitors should practice other preventative efforts, such as hand-washing and proper physical distancing, covering their mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing, and other preventative measures advised by the Ohio Department of Health at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/general-resources/cloth-masks-or-face-coverings-in-the-workplace>.~~
- ~~2. Faculty, staff, and students are required and visitors are strongly encouraged to perform a basic symptom assessment before coming to campus or going to class. Symptom Checklist and may not come to campus/go to class if they are ill, have COVID-19 symptoms or have a temperature over 100.~~

- ~~3. Certain positions that have higher contact with students and the public will be required to comply with daily on-campus temperature checks before beginning work.~~
- ~~4. Flu shot- all faculty staff and students should consult with their health care provider and get a flu shot, if medically advisable.~~

~~C. Visitors and Vendors~~

~~Visitors are expected to limit their trips to campus to essential visits, for their own health and the health of the University community. Vendors must comply with all COVID19 Requirements For Vendors when working on Miami's campuses.~~

~~D. Physical Distancing~~

~~All employees, students and visitors are expected to maintain physical distancing of at least 6'. All employees are expected to follow the signage regarding physical distancing, pedestrian traffic flow and closed areas and spaces.~~

~~EStudents, who are residing on-campus and have not provided documentation of COVID19 vaccination, will be automatically included in the University's surveillance testing program, at least until October 10, 2021. Off-campus students may be included in the surveillance program as public health conditions warrant. All students regardless of vaccination status may be required to engage in surveillance testing as public health conditions warrant. Students in the program are required to comply with testing protocols when notified to test. Testing compliance is a condition of participation in any on-campus activity, including but not limited to participating in face-to-face instruction, using dining or recreational facilities, attending campus events, and residing in a residence hall. Students who fail to respond and participate in the testing program when notified will face disciplinary action through the Office of Community Standards.~~

~~C. Quarantine, Isolation and Stay-at-Home Directives~~

All students, ~~faculty and staff~~ are ~~expected~~required to comply with all quarantine and isolation directives from their ~~county or city~~public health department, ~~or the University.~~ No person under a quarantine or isolation ~~directive of a public health department~~ may come to any Miami University campus for any reason; ~~_-~~ to work, attend classes or engage in any other activities.

Students who reside on the Oxford campus who are directed to quarantine or isolate by the public health department or the ~~Dean of Student's office~~ University must relocate to their assigned quarantine or isolation space as directed and meet all quarantine and isolation restrictions. ~~All faculty, staff and students are strongly encouraged to cooperate fully with their local health department's COVID19 contact tracing efforts~~ Students who fail to follow isolation or quarantine directives will face disciplinary action through the Office of Community Standards.

When the University has been notified that an employee has been in close contact in the workplace with a person who has tested positive for COVID19 or been diagnosed as a presumptive positive, the employee will be advised by the Department of Human Resources or Academic Personnel Services not to come to work for a specified period of time. No person under such a directive may come to any Miami University campus for any reason; to work, attend classes or engage in any other activities. All faculty, staff and students are strongly encouraged to cooperate fully with their local health department's COVID19 contact tracing efforts.

F. Visitors and Vendors

Visitors are expected to limit their trips to campus to essential visits, for their own health and the health of the University community. Vendors must comply with all COVID19 Requirements For Vendors when working on Miami's campuses.

E. Illness and Absence Reporting

All students, faculty and staff are required to report all absences from work or class and illnesses using the Universities electronic [absence reporting](#). In addition, students, faculty and staff are required to answer the questions in the reporting system relating to absences and illnesses due to COVID19 or its symptoms.

G. Enforcement

University facilities and operations have the right to refuse entry and services to those who do not ~~wear face coverings or maintain physical distancing, follow this policy or fail to participate in the University's testing program.~~ Those who fail to comply with the University's policies will be denied service- including service in dining halls, retail spaces and offices on campus. ~~Persons not wearing face coverings, as required, will be asked to wear a face covering and if the person refuses they may be denied admittance to any University building or office.~~

Students who ~~are not exempted and who~~ persist in refusing to wear a face covering ~~or maintain social distancing when~~where required to do so ~~will~~may face disciplinary action up to and including suspension or dismissal through the Office of Community Standards.

Faculty and staff who ~~are not exempted and who~~ persist in refusing to wear a face covering ~~or maintain social distancing~~ when required to do so will face disciplinary action up to and including suspension and termination.

HG. Classroom Enforcement Procedure

If a student comes to a class/studio/lab without a face covering ~~or refuses to maintain physical distancing~~, the instructor should first ask the student to comply (e.g. put on a face covering). If the student refuses, the instructor should ask the student to leave the classroom/studio/lab and inform the student that the class/studio/lab will not proceed until the student either complies or leaves. If the student continues to refuse, the instructor should dismiss the class/studio/lab and immediately report the student to the Office of Community Standards. Students reported to the Office of Community Standards may be summarily suspended from the class/studio/lab. Students should be reported using this

form https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MiamiUniv&layout_id=12. _____

We must act to both preserve and promote the health of our community. No one has the right to pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others on our campuses. This policy may be amended from time to time as public health standards change. _____