



STUDENTS AND GUESTS POLICY: University Mandatory Masking Policy Due to COVID-19

Rogers State University (“University”) strives to maintain a safe, educational environment at all times for its employees, students and guests, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. All should feel confident that the University is taking precautions to follow recommended guidelines by the health professionals of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that help in preventing the spread of diseases such as COVID-19. One such measure is the wearing of facial masks or other facial coverings that may help in the spread of COVID-19.

(Please refer to these mask guidelines at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.)

The CDC states in part:

*“CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. We now know from [recent studies](#) that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.”*

Therefore, effective July 30th, 2020, the mandatory wearing of facial mask coverings (facial shields, if unable to wear a mask due to pulmonary conditions) for all students of the University and guests will be in effect.

Each Rogers State University campus has implemented and will enforce a policy mandating that students and guests wear masks. All students and guests must wear fabric or disposable surgical-style masks that cover their nose and mouth (1) when they are *inside* University facilities and (2) when they are *outdoors* on campus, and social distancing of at least six feet is not possible.

Students may remove masks when inside University facilities only (1) when alone in an enclosed room or (2) while participating in activities in which a face mask cannot practically be worn, such as eating and drinking or an approved activity as part of an academic assignment or (3) if they are in their own enclosed private area with no one else present or in their dorm room when non-roommates and guests are not present.

*COVID-19 campus guidelines/procedures have been reviewed and approved by RSU’s COVID-19 Task Force and are effective until further notice.

Guidelines/Procedures

1. Students-The University will provide one cloth facial mask to all students at no cost. Students may also provide their own masks that comply with this policy. Masks for students who are on campus may be obtained at the welcome desk in the Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center. Masks for students in Pryor and Bartlesville may be obtained from the campus directors.
2. Guests must wear masks on campus and are asked to bring their own. The University will provide surgical-style masks to guests who do not provide their own approved mask.
3. The CDC notes that masks should cover the mouth and nose, be secured under the chin and fit snugly on all sides. It is important to wash your hands before putting on a mask and after removing it.
4. Cloth masks should be washed daily.
5. Facial masks or facial shields are not optional. They are mandatory for every employee when unable to maintain 6' distances, such as in conference/meeting rooms, hallways or copy rooms where others may be present.
6. The wearing of facial masks or facial shields are not considered personal protective equipment (PPE) by OSHA standards, because they do not ensure the safety of the wearer. Rather, they are meant to protect others from infected individuals. they meant to protect others from the spreading of someone infected with COVID-19 to others.

Policy date: July 2020