



From: Paul Sherwood, Assistant Vice President  
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Safety remains a top priority as we navigate the coronavirus outbreak. The university continues to refine its policies and continues to focus on making this autumn the best environment possible for our students, faculty, staff and visitors – including our contractors.

Face masks help protect all members of our community from the virus. Masks are required to be worn in all indoor settings on our campuses, including enclosed spaces under construction. Masks also must be worn outdoors in settings on campus, even when individuals can maintain appropriate physical distancing.

Indoors or outdoors, exceptions are made for those dining, participating in strenuous exercise or taking part in performance-based classes as long as physical distancing can be maintained. Additionally, there is an exception for university staff and contractors working outdoors for long periods of time who are able to maintain appropriate physical distancing and have a mask available, if needed. For more, including why universal mask use is among the most effective ways to reduce the risk of community transmission of COVID-19, visit the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#).

We appreciate your continued vigilance to ensure your teams are adhering to university, local and state mandates. The university may require any person who does not comply with the mandates to be dismissed from the project. As we've said before, Facilities Operations and Development and, by extension, our many valued contractors are highly visible and can set the example for our campus community.

You are advised to make additional exceptions only in compliance with State of Ohio orders and any orders issued by the local governments where your construction project is located. Questions about exceptions should be directed to the Ohio Department of Health or the local health department. Even where state or local orders do not require documentation for individuals subject to an exception, the university may require management verification that an exception complies with applicable orders and meets the contractor's safety requirements.

We appreciate your diligence to maintain safe construction sites and remind each organization to please advise individuals on your team that anyone feeling sick or with a fever must not report to work at Ohio State. Further, anyone who has signs or symptoms of respiratory illness consistent with coronavirus, has been exposed to an individual with coronavirus, or has been diagnosed with the virus should contact his or her primary care physician and must not report to work at Ohio State.