



From: Paul Sherwood, Assistance Vice President
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Thank you for your partnership as we navigate through the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19). Safety remains a top priority as we continue construction, and we appreciate your efforts on projects that support our campus.

[University](#), [city](#) and [state](#) orders now require masks in many areas. This is a public health issue, and masks help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by protecting others from aerosol drops released when exhaling, speaking, coughing or sneezing.

We have received complaints citing contract workers not wearing facemasks. As a reminder, the university may require any person who does not comply with mandates to be dismissed from the project. Moreover, we as individuals must be compelled to do the right thing – wearing a mask and practicing physical distancing to set the tone for a safe and healthful workplace. Facilities Operations and Development, and by extension our many valued contractors, are highly visible and can set the example for our campus community.

The Ohio State University requires face coverings to be worn in indoor settings, buses, shared vehicles and when staying six feet apart is not possible. This includes enclosed spaces under construction, conference rooms and common areas. Masks must be worn in outdoor spaces where individuals gather and cannot maintain physical distancing of at least six feet between each person.

You are advised to make 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.

Requirements for face coverings can be found at:

The Ohio State University:
<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/personal-protection-hygiene>

The Ohio Department of Health:
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Directors-Order-Facial-Coverings.pdf>
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Second-Order-Extend-Exp-Date-Various-Orders.pdf>

City of Columbus (for Columbus campus)
<https://www.columbus.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2147515999>

Construction projects outside of the City of Columbus should consult local health orders.

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.