Tips for Cloth Face Coverings During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Overview
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public. Consistent with these guidelines, everyone is expected to wear cloth face coverings on campus; these can be purchased or homemade. Talk to your supervisor or instructor to ensure the face covering does not create a safety hazard. Maintaining 6-feet social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus. Continue to take all the necessary precautions and stay healthy.

Surgical masks or N-95 respirators should be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.

For further information, visit the FAQ on the COVID-19 safety page.

How to Wear a Cloth Face Covering
• Wash your hands before placing any covering on your face
• Check to ensure a good fit. Indications of a good fit of a cloth face covering include:
  o Covers from the bridge of the nose, just below the eyes, and fully wraps the chin with at least one inch under the chin.
  o Fits securely around the face with little to no gapping.

Safely Removing Cloth Face Coverings
• Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing your face covering.
• Wash hands immediately after removing.
• Note: Replace face coverings with a new one when it becomes excessively damp.
• After use, place into a sealed bag to transport for laundering. Face masks should be laundered before reuse.

Laundering Cloth Masks
• Wash and dry face coverings at the highest temperature in a standard clothes washer and dryer.

Face Coverings in Laboratories
In addition to addressing the hazards typically encountered in laboratories, a risk assessment must be conducted to determine the appropriate measures to control the spread of COVID-19. Some laboratory hazards, such as heat, fire, and corrosive liquids, may render the use of cloth face coverings (CFCs) impractical or even dangerous.

Consider the use of CFCs first; specify natural fiber or fire-retardant fabric if necessary. If laboratory hazards make the use of CFCs impractical, a medical (non-impact) face shield may be substituted. Impact or chemical resistant face shields, worn for other laboratory hazards, may also be considered a COVID-19 barrier. See Table 1 for appropriate options. Note: Face shields do not replace the need for eye protection.
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<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>CFC</th>
<th>Medical Shield</th>
<th>ANSI Shield</th>
<th>Safety Glasses</th>
<th>Splash Goggles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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*Table 1. Options for hazard control in laboratories*