

CHANCELLOR'S ORDER ON MASK USE TO MINIMIZE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Modified: May 11, 2021

Effective: February 17, 2021. This order will remain in effect until further notice.

The continued use of face coverings is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), local health departments and healthcare professionals as an easy way to reduce the amount of respiratory droplets traveling into the air and breathed in by other people when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Many medical professionals and public health experts believe that wearing face coverings is the simplest way to limit the spread of COVID-19 virus without requiring people stay in their homes.

As of the date of this order, there is not a state-wide face coverings mandate that has been issued by Governor Evers. Regardless of the status of any state-wide order, however, the UW-Stout implements its own order until further notice. The UW-Stout will continue to place health and safety at the forefront of campus operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Risk reduction strategies will continue to be important as our state and county strive to vaccinate people as quickly as possible and as the threat of widespread virus variants looms.

Based upon the foregoing, I, Katherine Frank, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout, by the authority vested in me by the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, including, but not limited to, Wis. Stat. sec. 36, and Wis. Admin. Code secs. UWS 17-181, order the following as necessary to prevent, suppress, and control the spread of COVID-19 on our campus:

- 1) Face Coverings.** Face masks or face coverings will be worn by all students, employees, and visitors while indoors on campus. Masks or face coverings are not required when an individual is alone outdoors or in a small group consisting of no more than 10 people, while remaining socially distanced. Masks or face coverings are also not required when an individual is alone in their office with the door shut or in a residence hall room; however, they are required when in the presence of others and in common areas (this includes common workspaces, meeting rooms, hallways, restrooms, elevators, and classrooms).
 - a) These Face Coverings must:**
 - i) Fully cover the nose and mouth;
 - ii) Either cover the chin or secure under the chin (open chin bandanas are not acceptable); and
 - iii) Be free of any holes (macrame', crocheted, and knitted masks are prohibited).
 - b) Exceptions.** Requests for exceptions to this order should be made to Human Resources and will be evaluated individually using the interactive reasonable accommodations process.
- 2) Enforcement.** All employees and students are expected to fully comply with the protocols and guidelines outlined in this document. Failure to do so may result in corrective action. Every reasonable effort will be made to gain voluntary cooperation before engaging in the formal disciplinary process.

3) Severability. If any provision of this order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this order are severable.

4) Duration. This order is effective immediately and remain in effect until further notice.

¹In addition to the generalize authority cited above, this order is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Wisconsin and applicable policies in the University of Wisconsin System, including, but not limited to the following: Wis. Stat. s. 36.11(1)a., Wis. Admin. Code ss. UWS 17.09(1), UWS 17.09(8), UWS 17.09 (14), UWS 17.09 (15), UWS 18.08(9)(b), UWS 18.11(7)(e), Regent Policy 23-2, and Regent Resolution 11467.