**CA&ES guidance for appropriate use of face coverings while on campus, in university buildings, or in laboratories.**

Yolo County’s Shelter In Place Order is currently effective through May 31, 2020:

<https://www.yolocounty.org/health-human-services/adults/communicable-disease-investigation-and-control/novel-coronavirus-2019/roadmap-to-recovery>.

Those who can work remotely should continue to do so. On-campus activities should be limited and with knowledge of and permission from the PI or Department Chair.

Yolo County has further issued an Order for use of face coverings as of 4/27/2020.

<http://www.yolocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=64118>.

The Order is intended to promote individual safety and reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2 for individuals engaging in essential activities and visiting or working at essential businesses.

Face coverings are just one tool in reducing the spread of the virus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19. It is not considered a substitute for sheltering in place, physical distancing (minimum 6 feet), or frequent hand washing.

Face coverings in the context of this Order are PPE specific to SARS-CoV-2. For laboratory work, the face covering used should be appropriate to the risks associated with the task. Face coverings should not be N95 or surgical masks since they are in short supply and are reserved for health care providers and first responders. However, if you are required to wear a respirator or other type of protective face covering while working based on the Environmental Health and Safety laboratory hazard assessment tool (LHAT), you should continue to do so.

If you have any questions on PPE that is appropriate for a work task please discuss with the PI, a departmental safety officer, or UC Davis Safety Services.

The Order to wear a face covering applies:

* to individuals engaged in essential activities or working at essential businesses. If you are working on campus this Order would apply (also see the Order for community-based requirements for wearing a face covering while in public and traveling to work)
* when a person is unable to maintain at least a 6-foot distance from another person in an indoor facility other than their residence.
* when a person is unable to maintain at least a 6-foot distance from another person in an outdoor space.

For indoor use within a campus building the Order applies:

* when interacting with any member of the public (e.g., delivery person, chemical or biological waste pick up).
* when working in or walking through common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities
* in a room or enclosed area when other people are present

The Order does not apply when a person:

* is alone in a personal office (or other single room)
* is in a space without coworkers and the public does not regularly visit the space
* is engaged in an outdoor activity, including walking or biking, as long as physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained. In these cases, a face covering should be carried with you in case it is needed
* is driving alone.

What is a face covering as defined by the Order?

A “face covering” means a covering made of fabric or other soft or permeable material that covers that nose and mouth. Acceptable face coverings may be commercially made, handmade, or improvised.

If the face covering is not disposable, it should be cleaned (laundered) before each daily use. In this case, you may need to have extra available so that you have a ready supply of clean face coverings. They should not be worn if they become wet, soiled, or visibly dirty. More information on proper wear and care of cloth face coverings can be found at:

<https://www.fda.gov/media/137327/download>

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

What face covering should I use?

For research conducted in laboratories, the PI may be able to supply appropriate disposable single use face coverings. These are not meant for personal use outside of the campus and should not be cleaned/disinfected for repeated use.

At this time, the university also has a limited supply of face coverings for workers on campus that are available to departments. To request these face coverings please contact Vanessa Lieberman ([vmmorales@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vmmorales@ucdavis.edu)).

Clean cloth face coverings, personal or obtained from the university, may also be used in laboratories if appropriate for the work being conducted. As with gloves and lab coats, face coverings worn in laboratories should not be worn in the public areas of the RMI complex or in public outside the RMI complex.

Outside laboratories, it is expected that personal face coverings will be used in the RMI complex in accordance with the Yolo county order.