

Email to SGSC students – August 17, 2020

Good Afternoon Students of South Georgia State College!!

WELCOME BACK!!! We've missed your presence on campus, and we are so thankful for your safe return. As you are aware, the current state of our world has caused campus leadership to implement many changes and safety precautions. To ensure understanding, it's imperative that we provide you with guidance to alleviate any confusion. Please know that it is USG (University System of Georgia) policy for all Faculty, Staff, Students, and Visitors to wear masks where social distancing isn't possible. See policy outlined below...

### Use of Face Coverings Policy

Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia (USG) institutions will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in one's own dorm room or suite, when alone in an enclosed office or study room, or in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met.

Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Repeated refusal to comply with the requirement may result in discipline through the applicable conduct code for faculty, staff or students.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

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Our main priority is the safety of our Faculty, Staff, and Students. We are aware of the many masks available for wear during this time, we are only encouraging the use of masks that have been deemed appropriate by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please review the following considerations for wearing masks per the CDC listed below. We hope you have a successful school year and please know, that if you have any questions or concerns we're here to help you. Thank you!

- CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.
- Masks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- Masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.

- Masks should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents should NOT be worn to help prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others (source control).

### **Masks with Exhalation Valves or Vents**

The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others. Therefore, CDC **does not recommend** using masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent.

### **Face Shields**

- A face shield is primarily used for eye protection for the person wearing it. At this time, it is not known what level of protection a face shield provides to people nearby from the spray of respiratory droplets from the wearer. There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control. Therefore, CDC **does not currently recommend** use of face shields as a substitute for masks.
- However, wearing a mask may not be feasible in every situation for some people for example, people who are deaf or hard of hearing—or those who care for or interact with a person who is hearing impaired. Here are some considerations for individuals who must wear a face shield instead of a mask:
  - Although evidence on face shields is limited, the available data suggest that the following face shields may provide better source control than others:
    - Face shields that wrap around the sides of the wearer’s face and extend below the chin.
    - Hooded face shields.
  - Face shield wearers should wash their hands before and after removing the face shield and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth when removing it.
  - Disposable face shields should only be worn for a single use and disposed of according to manufacturer instructions.
  - Reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use according to manufacturer instructions or by following [CDC face shield cleaning instructions](#).
  - **Plastic face shields for newborns and infants are NOT recommended.**