

# ABOUT FACE COVERINGS

UVA Facilities Management

Occupational Programs

## ALL ABOUT FACE COVERINGS

Per UVA's [Policy SEC-045](#), Facilities Management is now requiring face coverings to be worn at all times while indoors at UVA facilities, unless alone in an office or vehicle. [The CDC recommends](#) face coverings in any setting where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies, essential worksites) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

Face coverings **shall not have exhalation valves or vents**, which allow virus particles to escape, and shall not be made of material that makes it hard to breathe, such as vinyl. See more from VOSH's *Revised Virginia Standard For Infectious Disease Prevention Of COVID-19*: <https://at.virginia.edu/LyoTAM>

The purpose of face coverings is to reduce the release of potentially infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes. **Face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing, washing hands, and staying home when ill.**

Here are examples of the various types of face coverings that are being used to protect public health:



### N95 RESPIRATORS

N95 masks are only to be used when required by your job and/or task. N95 users are required to go through special fit testing & training. Users are fit tested to their specific model of face covering.

If you are unsure if your job requires an N95 OR you need training, contact your supervisor or [FM-OHS@virginia.edu](mailto:FM-OHS@virginia.edu).



### KN95

KN95 filtering facepiece respirators are certified under China's standards and are not cleared by the FDA or NIOSH. With worldwide supply shortages of N95s, more KN95 masks are starting to appear in this country. KN95 is not a substitute for an N95, but can be used to prevent spread of the virus.



### DUST MASKS

These look like N95s but they may not have the proper certifications that N95s have (e.g. NIOSH certification).

Dust masks are okay for voluntary use. They are typically sold in hardware stores for people who need protection from sawdust and other construction work. Dust masks are disposable.



### NEOPRENE FACE COVERS

The material is thick and can prevent the spread of droplets from the mouth and nose, depending on mask design. Neoprene fabrics are washable and reusable. Masks should be washed before reuse.

Face covers with valves on them should be double layered with a paper or cloth face cover to prevent the spread of droplets.



### SURGICAL MASKS & CLOTH FACE COVERS

These masks do not filter out particles to the extent that N95 and KN95 masks do. They will contain droplets and spittle from the mouth and nose of the wearer, protecting those around the wearer.



### NECK GAITERS & BANDANAS

Cotton or synthetic materials are used to make these. The material is often thin for "improved breathability", which means a decreased ability to contain droplets.

**Neck gaiters and bandanas offer significantly reduced protection and are not considered effective face covers for use at UVA FM.**

# KN95 Mask Information & Resources

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## UVA Policy SEC-045: COVID-19 Health & Safety Requirements – Vaccination, Testing, Face Masks, Events and Gatherings, and Visitors <https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/SEC-045>

Face masks **are required for all people** (students, faculty, staff, contractors and visitors), both vaccinated and unvaccinated, who enter UVA properties:

- This includes University-owned or leased public spaces like academic or administrative buildings, libraries, labs, dining halls, IM/Rec facilities, all UVA Health properties, and public transportation.
- This does not include dorms or private housing (including common areas within those spaces), or those alone within individual offices.
- This policy will remain in effect indefinitely until federal, state, local and/or University directives deem a face covering is no longer necessary or recommended to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Appropriate use of face masks is critical in minimizing risks to others near you. COVID-19 can be spread to others even if no symptoms are being displayed. **A face mask should not be used as a substitute for social distancing.**

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## HOW TO PUT ON YOUR FACE MASK



- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to handling the face mask.
  - Be sure the face mask fits over the nose and under the chin.
  - Place straps around the ears.
  - AVOID TOUCHING THE FRONT OF THE FACE COVERING
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## HOW TO TAKE OFF YOUR FACE MASK



- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing the face mask.
- When taking off the face mask, loop your finger into the strap and pull the strap away from the ear.
- Wash hands immediately after removing.

# KN95 MASK INFORMATION

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## ARE KN95 MASKS REQUIRED AT UVA?

KN95 masks are not required for faculty, staff and students in the Academic Division. New CDC guidance released on January 14, 2022, provides information on different types of masks and the varying levels of protection. It suggests that a KN95 mask may be considered in situations where greater protection is needed or desired, e.g., “when working at a job where you interact with large numbers of the public especially when everyone is not consistently wearing a mask.” Please note that wearing KN95 masks at UVA is entirely voluntary.

## SHOULD I WEAR A CLOTH MASK WITH MY KN95?

No, wearing a cloth mask in addition to your KN95 reduces its effectiveness.

## HOW SHOULD I CARE FOR AND STORE MY KN95?

Please **DO NOT** attempt to wash your KN95. With proper care, your KN95 should be reusable for an extended period of time.

To keep your KN95 clean between uses, store your mask in a safe location that other people cannot access and where it will not get wet or be subject to direct sunlight or excessive heat. A dry paper bag works well for storing your KN95.

## WHEN SHOULD I DISCARD MY KN95 MASK?

You should replace your KN95 mask when it:

- Becomes soiled
- No longer covers the nose and mouth
- Has stretched out or damaged ties or straps
- Cannot stay on the face
- Has holes or tears in the fabric

A KN95 may be disposed of in the normal trash.

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### CITATIONS

SEC-045: COVID-19 Health & Safety Requirements – Vaccination, Testing, Face Masks, Events and Gatherings, and Visitors. <https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/SEC-045>. January 19, 2022.

Types of Masks and Face Coverings | CDC.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>. January 14, 2022.