

	<p style="text-align: center;">Office of Environmental Health and Safety</p>
<p>Safety Guideline</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Face Masks / Surgical Masks at UMB</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective Date: March 16, 2020</p>

1. Background

The Covid19 Pandemic in 2020 has created a surge in worldwide use of facemasks / surgical masks (example pictured below) as well as respirators.

2. Purpose of this Guideline

The purpose of this guideline is to provide UMB faculty, staff and students information on wearing a face mask or surgical mask at UMB.

3. CDC FAQ: [Does CDC recommend use of Facemask to prevent Covid-19](#)

“CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. You should only wear a mask if a healthcare professional recommends it. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms. This is to protect others from the risk of getting infected. The use of facemasks also is crucial for health workers and other people who are taking care of someone infected with COVID-19 in close settings (at home or in a health care facility)”

4. OSHA Fact Sheet : [link](#)

“Surgical masks are used as a physical barrier to protect the user from hazards, such as splashes of large droplets of blood or body fluids. Surgical masks also protect other people against infection from the person wearing the surgical mask. Such masks trap large particles of body fluids that may contain bacteria or viruses expelled by the wearer.”

5. UMB: Face Masks / Surgical Masks

UMB follows the CDC and OSHA recommendations for wearing these types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at campus. The only currently known UMB faculty, staff, or students to be actively wearing this PPE for work related reasons are found in Health Services, the vivarium, and select research labs. You might on occasion see UMB faculty, staff or students wearing these types of masks around campus: they are choosing to do so for personal reasons. UMB OEHS does not provide this PPE to the UMB community. It is procured by individual departments as required or personally.

