

34.99.99.C0.02 Use of Face Coverings to Reduce the Spread of Communicable Diseases



Revised: May 24, 2021
Next Scheduled Review: May 24, 2026
[Revision History](#)

Procedure Summary

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) is committed to protecting the health and safety of its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The use of face coverings (e.g., cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) is recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases (e.g., COVID-19, influenza). As such, TAMU-CC developed this procedure regarding the use of face coverings on campus that aligns with the guidance from the CDC, State of Texas, Texas A&M University System, Nueces County, and City of Corpus Christi. An official campus announcement will be sent when this procedure is in effect and the use of face coverings is required. This procedure is intended to be read in conjunction with the TAMU-CC Use of Face Coverings to Reduce the Spread of Communicable Diseases Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). When the procedure is in effect, the FAQ will be linked in the Appendix section of this procedure.

Procedure

1. General
 - 1.1. To prevent the spread of communicable diseases, the CDC recommends the use of face coverings (see the Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements section for a link to the *CDC Recommendations for the Use of Cloth Face Coverings*). When notified via an official campus announcement that this procedure is in effect, TAMU-CC students, faculty, staff, and visitors will comply with this recommendation from the CDC, as well as to any orders from the State of Texas, Texas A&M University System, Nueces County, or City of Corpus Christi.
 - 1.2. The primary purpose of using a face covering is to reduce the amount of virus spreading from the wearer into the environment and to others. The secondary

purpose of using a face covering is to reduce the likelihood of the wearer contracting the virus from respiratory droplets containing the virus that are generated by others in the environment that may otherwise enter the wearer's nose or mouth. The use of a face covering does not replace the continued need for adequate physical/social distancing, but instead augments physical distancing and helps us further reduce the likelihood of virus transmission. Refer to the associated FAQ for information on social distancing requirements.

- 1.3. While the university may provide face coverings when available, employees and students are encouraged to have multiple additional face coverings to be able to begin each day with a clean face covering. All TAMU-CC students, faculty, staff, and visitors should follow the current *CDC Recommendations for the Use of Cloth Face Coverings* (see link below).
- 1.4. The guidelines in this procedure are based on the most recent available guidance from the CDC, State of Texas, Texas A&M University System, Nueces County, and City of Corpus Christi and are subject to change as new information becomes available.

2. Face Covering Use Requirements

When notified via an official campus announcement that this procedure is in effect, individuals should review the associated FAQ and adhere to requirements contained therein.

3. Exceptions

Exceptions and/or waivers to the face covering use requirements detailed in the associated FAQ for individuals, academic courses, or areas will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Requests may be made as outlined below.

3.1. Individual Exceptions

- 3.1.1. Students requesting an exception to the face covering use requirements due to a disability or a documented medical condition should contact Disability Services.
- 3.1.2. Students requesting an exemption to the face covering use requirements due to a religious concern should contact Employee Development and Compliance Services (EDCS).
- 3.1.3. Faculty, staff, or visitors requesting an exception to the face covering use requirements due to a disability or a documented medical

condition shall follow the process outlined in university procedure *08.01.02.C0.01, Employee/Applicant Requests for Reasonable Accommodations Under the ADA.*

3.1.4. Faculty, staff, or visitors requesting an exception to the face covering use requirements due to a religious concern shall follow the process outlined in university procedure *08.01.01.C1.02, Employee Requests for Religious Accommodations.*

3.2. Academic Course Exceptions

Academic course exceptions must be submitted to the faculty member's department chair for approval and routing to the academic unit dean and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The exception request must contain the following information: the requested course name, the reason that face coverings are not feasible, and the additional safety measures taken to further mitigate the risk of spreading communicable diseases in the absence of face coverings. Courses where an exception to the face covering use requirements has been granted or that will require face masks to be worn regardless of current face covering use requirements will be clearly marked in the course syllabus and communicated to the students enrolled in the course that an exception has been granted.

3.3. Area Exceptions

Area exceptions must be submitted to the Environmental, Health & Safety office and contain the following information: the requested location, the reason that face coverings are not feasible, and the additional safety measures taken to further mitigate the risk of spreading communicable diseases in the absence of face coverings. Areas where an exception to the face covering use requirements has been granted will be clearly marked by Environmental, Health & Safety with signs indicating that an exception has been granted.

4. Disciplinary Action

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are expected to fully comply with this procedure and the requirements detailed in the associated FAQ. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to, and including, termination and/or expulsion.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[CDC Recommendations for the Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#)

[CDC Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education](#)

University Procedure [08.01.01.C1.02, Employee Requests for Religious Accommodations](#)

University Procedure [08.01.02.C0.01, Employee/Applicant Requests for Reasonable Accommodations Under the ADA](#)

Appendix

TAMU-CC [Use of Face Coverings to Reduce the Spread of Communicable Diseases FAQ](#)
(FAQ available when procedure is in effect)

Contact Office

Contact for clarification and interpretation: Environmental, Health & Safety
(361) 825-5555