

Executive Directive – UC Merced COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

Issued by Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz

July 16, 2021

In order to help mitigate possible exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 on property controlled by UC Merced and to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the UC Merced community, the following requirements apply.

This Executive Directive (“Directive”) supersedes the June 4, 2020 Interim Policy – Universal Requirements for Physical Mitigation and Reduction of the Transmission of COVID-19 Fall and all prior campuswide guidance to the extent such guidance is inconsistent with this Executive Directive.

This Directive:

- Applies to:
 - All individuals when physically on UC Merced controlled property
- May not apply in some UC Merced locations, such as research laboratories, where stricter face covering or PPE requirements may apply and thereby supersede the requirements of this Directive.
- Is subject to local and state public health orders as issued, if stricter than the requirements of this Directive.
- Is subject to change. Current directives and advisories are available [here](#).

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Directive

Face Coverings

- A. "Face covering" means a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers. A face covering has no visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric.
- B. "Fully Vaccinated" means the individual received, at least 14 days prior, either the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine must be U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved; have an emergency use authorization from the FDA; or, for persons fully vaccinated outside the United States, be listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- C. No individual can be prevented from wearing a face covering on UC Merced controlled property unless the wearing of a face covering would create a risk to the individual related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

Vaccinated: Pharmaceutical Interventions

1. All Academic appointees, staff, or students who have provided proof of full vaccination are not required to wear face coverings on UC Merced controlled property except when:
 - a. On public transit, including fleet vehicles when riding with others;
 - b. Indoors in childcare or other youth settings, unless that setting is within a home/apartment/residence hall room (living unit);
 - c. Indoors in health office settings;
 - d. Indoors for gatherings of 50 or more where the vaccination status of all is not known;
or
 - e. Indoors for instructional activities, except for fully vaccinated instructors; or
 - f. Otherwise specifically indicated as universally required by a facility or event

Go to <https://doyourpart.ucmerced.edu/get-vaccinated> to upload your vaccination record .

Not Vaccinated: Non-pharmaceutical Interventions

2. All academic appointees, staff, or students who are not Fully Vaccinated on UC Merced controlled property must wear a face covering when indoors and not in their living unit unless the individual is:
 - a. In an enclosed private space (such as the occupant's private office with the door closed);
 - b. Showering, washing their face, or brushing their teeth in a residence hall or other UC Merced facility with common bathroom facilities (though the individual should maintain at least six feet of physical distance while doing so); or
 - c. Eating or drinking and more than six feet from other individuals.
3. All individuals who are not Fully Vaccinated on UC Merced controlled property are recommended to wear a face covering when outdoors if six feet of physical distance between people cannot be maintained.

4. The requirement for unvaccinated individuals to wear a cloth face covering in this Directive SHALL NOT APPLY to:
 - a. Children under the age of two;
 - b. Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
 - c. Persons with a medical or mental health condition, or developmental disability, that prevents wearing a face covering (see Section 8 for more details);
 - d. Anyone actively engaged in strenuous physical outdoor activity, or actively engaged in indoor approved Intercollegiate Athletic activities (while physically practicing or playing), where wearing the cloth face covering could inhibit their ability to breathe, provided they observe other appropriate mitigation measures; or
 - e. Instructors actively engaged in teaching, provided they maintain six feet of physical distance from people and wear a face shield; or
 - f. Anyone performing a specific task which cannot feasibly be performed with a face covering. This exception is limited to the time period in which such tasks are actually being performed.

5. Visitors, regardless of their vaccination status are required to wear face coverings when indoors, with limited exceptions for research activities. In these research situations where face coverings must be removed, individuals are to maintain 6ft distance. Visitors who eat in University facilities should maintain 6ft distance when eating with individuals not from their immediate family where possible.
6. UC Merced offices must consider requests for reasonable accommodations related to COVID-19 mitigation measures. Technical assistance may be sought from
 - a. Student Accessibility Services | <https://access.ucmerced.edu/> | access@ucmerced.edu | 209-228-6995
 - b. Human Resources: Benefits for staff and academic appointees | <https://hr.ucmerced.edu/benefits> | benefits@ucmerced.edu | 209-228-8247
7. References/Resources
 - a. Face coverings are available to all academic appointees, staff, and students through Emergency Management. One Face covering per individual per day will be distributed with CatCard. Face coverings can be picked up at various locations on campus, see [distribution locations map here](#).
 - b. Upon request, UC Merced will provide voluntary use respirators (i.e. N95s) to unvaccinated employees, and to anyone regardless of vaccination status. Prior to receiving an N95, employees must complete a brief training in UC Learning Center (search for "N95 Voluntary Use") and follow the directions on how to obtain them at various locations around campus.

Asymptomatic Screening Program

Vaccinated

1. Lot Quality Asymptomatic (LQA) screening will be required for vaccinated individuals and

should expect to take no more than one COVID-19 test a semester.

2. Asymptomatic screening in addition to LQA screening is optional for vaccinated individuals. Vaccinated academic appointees, staff and students may utilize UC Merced sponsored testing at no cost.

Not Vaccinated: Non-pharmaceutical Interventions

3. All academic appointees, staff, and students who are not Fully Vaccinated are required to participate in UC Merced's Asymptomatic Screening Program
 - a. Students who reside in campus housing are required to take two COVID-19 tests per week
 - b. All other academic appointees, staff, or students are required to take one COVID-19 test per week
 - c. Academic appointee, staff, or student may use UC Merced sponsored testing at no cost. COVID-19 test results from campus sponsored tests are automatically uploaded and require no further action by individual to be compliant with program.
 - d. Those who are not Fully Vaccinated may choose to utilize a certified testing laboratory at their own expense, and are required to upload COVID-19 test results to UC Merced's occupational health portal ([Work Health Solutions](#)) to be compliant with the Asymptomatic Screening Program.

Daily Health Monitoring

1. All Academic appointees, staff, and students are required to respond to the [Daily Health Monitoring](#) email daily, to either attest no symptoms or to report that they are experiencing symptoms, have a close COVID-19 contact, or are COVID-19 positive.
2. Any individual that is experiencing symptoms, has a close COVID-19 contact, or is COVID-19 positive is prohibited from accessing UC Merced controlled property.
 - a. An academic appointee or staff that is experiencing symptoms, or has a close COVID-19 contact, may visit Work Health Solution onsite clinic for the purpose of COVID-19 symptomatic testing as an exemption to the above prohibition of campus access.
 - b. Students may visit Student Health Services as an exemption to the above prohibition of campus access.

Reporting to COVID Response Center (CRC)

1. All academic appointments, staff, and students are required to report COVID symptoms, COVID positive test results, or possible COVID exposures to UC Merced's COVID Response Center (CRC).
2. Individuals must report to CRC through one of the following methods:
 - a. Via email: COVIDResponseCtr@ucmerced.edu;
 - b. Via [Daily Health App](#) submission; or
 - c. Via phone call: 209-228-0000
3. Individuals who have reported one of the above situations to CRC, are required to follow the instructions provided by CRC regarding next steps.
4. Individuals may only return to campus after receiving explicit clearance from CRC to do so.

Support for Directive at the time it was issued includes, but is not limited to:

- UC COVID-19 Immunization Policy
- [California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board Emergency Temporary Standards approved on June 17, 2021;](#)
- [Executive Order N-09-21 issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on June 17, 2021;](#)
- [California Department of Public Health: Guidance on Use of Face Coverings, effective June 15, 2021](#)
- [Merced County Public Health Order issued on June 16, 2021, including the reasons for the public health order stated therein;](#)
- Guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including ["When You've Been Fully Vaccinated"](#) and ["Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education"](#) updated June 4, 2021;
- [U.S. Department of Education ED COVID-19 HANDBOOK – Strategies for Safe Operation and Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education Students, Faculty, and Staff, Vol. 3 - 2021.](#)

Authority to issue this directive:

- [Regents Standing Order 100.6](#)



Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz

July 16, 2021

Date