

## Executive Directive – UC Merced COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

Issued by Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz

Current: March 24, 2022

Rev1: January 7, 2022

Original: July 16, 2021

### Adjustments to the Executive Directive are effective from March 18 through May 31<sup>st</sup>.

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 January 7, 2022 and 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](#).

### Contents

Directive .....	1
Face Coverings .....	2
Asymptomatic Screening Program.....	2
Daily Health Monitoring .....	3
Reporting to COVID Response Center (CRC).....	3
Support for Directive at the time it was issued includes, but is not limited to:.....	4
Authority to issue this directive: .....	4

Directive

## Face Coverings

In alignment with CDPH Guidance, face coverings are strongly encouraged for all individuals when indoors, but not required except for the following situations:

- All classroom and instructional activities
- Cat Tracks and Public Transportation
- Early Childhood and Education Center (ECEC)
- Student Health Services and Counseling Services will continue to follow face covering guidance for healthcare settings.

Beginning April 8, if circumstances continue to improve, face coverings will be strongly encouraged but no longer required for classroom and instructional activities.

- A.** "Face covering" means a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, or a respirator worn voluntarily. Tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers are not sufficient for indoor use in required locations but may be utilized outdoors and at the discretion of individuals who are not required to wear a face covering per this directive. 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.** 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.

## Asymptomatic Screening Program

UC Merced's Asymptomatic Screening Program consists of both a "Lot Quality" randomized testing for individuals who are Up to Date and the Weekly Screening Program for those who are Not Up to date.

"Up to Date" 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; as well as any boosters consistent with manufacturer instructions and applicable agency approval, authorization, or listing. 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).

### Testing Requirements for "Up to Date" Individuals – Lot Quality Program

1. All academic appointees, staff, and students who are Up to Date are required to participate in the Lot Quality Asymptomatic (LQA) screening program, which for this effective period consists of one COVID-19 test prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Asymptomatic screening in addition to LQA screening is optional for "Up to Date" individuals. Academic appointees, staff and students may utilize UC Merced sponsored testing at no cost.

**Testing Requirements for Individuals who are “Not Up to Date” (Vaccinated and Not Boosted or Not Vaccinated): Weekly Screening Program - Non-pharmaceutical Interventions**

1. All academic appointees, staff, and students who are not Fully Up to Date on their vaccination requirements are required to participate in UC Merced’s Weekly Screening Program which consists of one COVID-19 test per week.
  - 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.
  - All individuals may choose to utilize a certified testing laboratory at their own expense, and are required to upload COVID-19 test results to the respective health portal to be compliant with the Asymptomatic Screening Program.

**Daily Health Monitoring**

1. All Academic appointees, staff, and students are required to notify the university if:
  - they are experiencing COVID-19 like 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.
  - An academic appointee or staff that is experiencing symptoms, or has a close COVID19 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.
  - Students may visit Student Health Services as an exemption to the above prohibition of campus access.

**Reporting to COVID Response Center (CRC)**

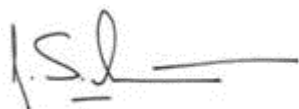
1. All academic appointments, staff, and students are required to report COVID symptoms, COVID positive test results, or possible COVID exposures to UC Merced’s COVID Response Center (CRC).
2. Individuals must report to CRC through one of the following methods:
  - a. Via email: [COVIDResponseCtr@ucmerced.edu](mailto:COVIDResponseCtr@ucmerced.edu);
  - 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 SARS CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) Vaccination Program](#)
- [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 Masks, February 28, 2022](#)
- [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](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.S.M.' followed by a horizontal line.

Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz

March 24, 2022

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Date