

# **COVID-19 Face Covering Protocol**

*Last updated: October 22, 2020*

## **Protocol Statement:**

This protocol has been developed in compliance with Governor Baker's Executive Order No. 31 requiring face coverings in public spaces and with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH, The Joint Commission, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the COVID-19 World Health Organization (WHO) for the management of COVID-19, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). This document will be continually updated as guidelines change.

## **Statement of Purpose**

This protocol is designed to support the safety and well being of all members of the QCC community and the community at large. While each of us work to protect our own health and safety, it is our responsibility to do what we can to protect the public, students, fellow employees, faculty and staff in our community by following the protocols set forth according to the American College Health Association's COVID-19 Task Force (2020):

"The risk of subsequent waves of infection remains until we achieve sufficient herd immunity through vaccination or actual infection and recovery: Minimizing personal contact, maintaining a distance of 6 feet from other people, performing hand hygiene frequently, and staying home if not feeling well are our only tools are prevention through non-pharmacologic interventions, When personal contact is necessary, but keeping social distance is impossible, face coverings are an effective method of reducing viral spread.

## **Face Covering Requirement**

Any individual who enters the QCC campus must wear a face covering in order to protect all members of the QCC community and to mitigate the spread and/or reemergence of COVID-19, and help prevent inadvertent asymptomatic spread, any individual who enters the QCC campus must wear a face covering that covers the mouth nose at all times, both indoors and outdoors.

All students and employees are required to wear a face covering in all facilities and shared spaces, including outdoor spaces and while traveling across campus. This includes offices, classrooms, common areas, dining areas, and any other facility where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

College hosts of approved visitors and vendors are responsible for compliance with the requirement and must bring their own face coverings.

# Prohibited Face Coverings

Based on the CDC's most recent guidance, the following face coverings do not effectively mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and are not allowed to be used as protective face coverings on the QCC campus.

1. Face shields, without an accompanying face covering
2. Face masks with vents
3. Neck gaiters

# Exceptions to the Face Covering Requirement

Individuals do not need to wear face coverings in the following situations:

1. When an individual is working alone in their own office with the door closed.
2. Faculty members who are recording a class or laboratory session alone in a designated space with the door closed.
3. When an individual is eating or drinking with adequate physical distancing, i.e. in a space that allows the person to remain 6 feet away from others.
4. When an individual is using the outdoor athletic fields, provided they are able to maintain appropriate physical distancing. (Massachusetts safety standards require fourteen feet distance between people engaging in physical activity.)
5. When an individual is alone in their own personal vehicle. However, before exiting a personal vehicle on campus the individual must put on a face covering.
6. When a Facilities employee has been assigned a specific vehicle that only they use, a face covering is not required while the employee is in the vehicle. However, before exiting the vehicle on campus the employee must put on a face covering.

# Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

If you feel that you cannot wear a cloth face covering due to a medical condition or disability, and you are a faculty or staff member, please contact Human Resources. Student seeking an accommodation may contact [Student Accessibility Services](#)

People whose health precludes them from wearing a face covering should not be on campus because:

1. They will place staff and others at risk of infection
2. Their own health makes them more vulnerable to infection
3. Educational accommodations for remote learning can be sought

Sources Retrieved from: [American College Health Association Considerations for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in the COVID-19 era.](#)

**Mass DPH Commonwealth of Massachusetts, CDC, WHO, Joint Commission, ADA**