



Effective August 21, 2020

COVID-19 FACE MASK MANDATE

The safety of our staff, students, and visitors is paramount. As we open for the fall 2020 term, you will see added precautions to ensure the health and safety of the SFSC community.

Face coverings (masks, face shields, etc.) must be worn by faculty, staff, students, vendors, visitors, and students in all indoor settings. This includes all classrooms and conference/meeting rooms. Face coverings are not required in outdoor areas unless social distancing is not possible.

Mask Distribution

SFSC purchased sufficient quantities of masks/face coverings for distribution to students this fall. Each student attending face-to-face classes will be given two cloth masks to use for the term. Students can obtain their masks through the following ways:

- a. as they arrive at an SFSC facility at various welcome stations
- b. through their classroom faculty; faculty will receive a supply of masks to distribute from their respective dean or campus director

If individuals at the points of distribution need additional masks, contact June Weyrauch at ext. 7218 and an ample supply will be delivered/sent.

If there are any questions at any time, employees should reach out to their supervisor. Additionally, Keith Loweke serves as SFSC's chief safety officer. Keith can be reached by calling ext. 7219 with any concerns or questions.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided to students and employees who cannot wear face coverings due to disabling conditions (see below).

FAQs

The following FAQs will provide guidance on the new face covering requirements.

When are face coverings required?

- SFSC will implement its face mask mandate beginning Aug. 21, 2020.

Where are face coverings required?

- While the face covering/mask mandate is in effect, students will be required to wear masks or face coverings inside campus buildings, classrooms, and at outdoor instructional areas when social distancing is not possible.
- Face coverings are required in elevators, interior corridors and stairwells.
- Face coverings must be worn while meeting with instructors or staff within private offices.
- Exceptions to this rule will be granted for dining areas where individuals consume food or beverages. These areas have been arranged to provide proper social distancing and include the cafeteria and breakrooms.
- Signs will be posted throughout the various campuses/sites to remind individuals of the SFSC mask/face covering mandate.

What are acceptable types of face coverings?

- The College has purchased reusable imprinted masks for distribution. Faculty, staff, and students will each be given two (2) reusable masks for daily use, but other face coverings which cover mouths and noses appropriately may be used if preferred.
- Hearing impaired students and their instructors (upon request) will receive masks with clear panels or face shields to provide for lip reading.
- Cloth face coverings are recommended by the CDC [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html) or [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html) to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.
- Individuals are welcome to wear their own face coverings but are asked to make sure that face covering fits snugly and covers the nose and mouth at all times.
- Some College instructional programs may require students to wear PPE with higher protection ratings while training in high risk fields. Specific instructions will be provided by the student's instructor on a case-by-case basis.

Where can I find a face mask?

- You may bring your own mask.
- The College will provide an initial mask/face covering to all College employees and students.

- Each division of the College will distribute these as part of the return to campus through the classroom faculty.
- Masks can also be found in the Student Services Center on the Highlands Campus, and at all campus/center offices.

What is the correct way to wear a face mask?

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering.
- Place it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.
- Wash your hands before and after touching and adjusting the cloth face covering.
- Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

What if I am unable to wear a face covering?

- Students who cannot wear a mask as the result of a documented disability should contact the disability services counselor on the Highlands Campus for accommodations by phone 863-784-7176 or email disabilities.specialist@southflorida.edu.
- Questions or concerns by students about wearing face coverings should be directed to the dean, student services by phone 863-784-7107 or email SFSCStudentServices@southflorida.edu.
- There may be some legitimate reasons why students cannot wear face masks. College administrators will review the situation; however, if an accommodation cannot be made, students will be told to seek a remedy that does not involve a face-to-face encounter with campus employees and students (e.g., switch to online classes, independent study with the approval of the academic faculty, chair and dean, or class withdrawal).
- If a faculty member determines that wearing a mask is unsafe (i.e., during a welding exercise the student's mask could catch fire), the respective department chair and dean can approve an exemption to the mandate during that specific classroom instruction activity.

What are the consequences for non-compliance?

- Students without a face covering will be directed to comply and provided an opportunity to obtain a face covering on site (Office of Student Services, Campus/Center offices, and Welcome Center).
- Students unwilling to wear a face covering as directed will be instructed to leave the campus immediately.
- Failure to comply will subject the student to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Other community members and visitors who refuse to comply may be denied service and will be instructed to leave College property immediately.

Reporting concerns regarding face covering non-compliance

- Student non-compliance with this policy should be reported to the dean, student services by phone at 863-784-7107 or email SFSCStudentServices@southflorida.edu.
- Concerns regarding vendor or visitor compliance with this policy should be directed to the Office of Safety and Security at 863-784-7219.
- You may also share concerns with your division dean.