



Face Covering Policy Due to COVID-19

As we return to campus, the health and safety of all individuals is of the highest importance. Effective July 15, 2020, Eastern will require that all students, faculty, staff and visitors wear face coverings on the Eastern Oklahoma State College Wilburton and McAlester campuses. Eastern students attending classes at the Southeastern McCurtain County Campus in Idabel and the Kiamichi Technology Center in Antlers will be required to follow the hosting institution's policy.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19, which spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice (e.g., while shouting, chanting, or singing).

What is a face covering?

For the purposes of this policy, it is defined as any cloth face covering, such as a facemask, bandana or scarf, that covers the nose and mouth, and ties around the ears or the back of the head. It must be secured under the chin and fit snugly against the sides of the face.

Where and when are face coverings required?

Face coverings are required when:

- Indoors when other people are present, including classrooms and other learning environments, as well as common or public areas such as hallways, stairways, lobbies, common areas of residence halls, restrooms, elevators, the Library, Bookstore and Cafeteria
- Outdoors when keeping a six-foot distance from others may not be possible
- In all college-provided transportation, unless the driver is alone in the vehicle

Face coverings are not required when:

- Working or spending time alone in a personal workspace, office, or other area on campus
- Working or spending time outdoors (walking, exercising, etc.) and at least a six-foot distance from others can be maintained
- Inside a personal, on-campus residence hall room or apartment
- Eating or drinking – a six-foot physical distance between people is required when eating and drinking in the Cafeteria

How will the face covering policy be enforced?

Everyone who comes to campus is expected to observe Eastern's face covering policy. We must all work together to prevent and stop the spread of the virus. Failure to comply with face covering requirements may result in denial of access to classrooms and other designated areas or participation in programs and activities. Faculty have the right to deny a student entry into the classroom if a student is not wearing a face covering. All students have the opportunity to participate in classes via online courses or Zoom web conference technology.

Employees are expected to comply with the face covering requirement as a condition of employment, as well as for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues, and the Eastern community.

Will there be exceptions for face coverings?

Exceptions or waivers for individuals will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Students who need reasonable accommodations related to the use of face coverings may contact the ADA coordinator at ccarpenter@eosc.edu or 918-465-1810. Employees should contact the Office of Human Resources at 918-465-1777.



What should I know about the care and safe use of face coverings?

Face coverings should:

- Fit snugly against the face, completely covering the nose and mouth
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Should be used in conjunction with physical distancing (six feet)

Face coverings become contaminated as you wear them, both from yourself and the environment around you. Face coverings must be taken off properly to avoid self-contamination:

- Remove face coverings by the straps. **DO NOT** touch your eyes, nose, mouth or the inside of the cloth face covering
- Wash hands immediately after removal
- If your face covering is disposable, then promptly throw it away; do not place it into your pocket, backpack or where it may contaminate your belongings
- If you have a disposable face covering that you have to reuse, then store it between uses in a clean breathable container (paper bag) and be careful not to touch the inside of the face covering. Do not store in an airtight container
- If you have a reusable cloth face covering, make sure you wash it after each use (washing machine or soap and hot water)

Where do I get a face covering?

Students, faculty, staff and visitors should plan to provide their own face coverings (cloth or disposable masks). Eastern will provide all students, faculty and staff with one disposable mask at the beginning of the semester. Additional disposable masks will be available by request in the Office of Student Services of the Office of Human Resources as needed.