

## **COVID Operations Update - Masks Required for All as Safety Precaution (July 1, 2020)**

As we prepare to fully reopen the campus and welcome students for the fall semester, there is growing concern by many surrounding the wearing of masks on campus, as the number of positive COVID cases across our region and certain parts of the country continue to rise. As a result, I am requiring that **masks be worn by all students, employees, and campus visitors effective immediately** for the remainder of Phase 3 (until August 9) and into Phase 4 (August 10 and after).

I have made this decision based on guidance by our local, state, and national health agencies, and feel that it is in the best interests for the continued safety of everyone. Though this decision may not be popular with some, the administration has given very careful consideration to what is best in order to anticipate and address the health needs of our students, employees, and community. Our institution remains proactive in our response surrounding COVID-19 and will continue to do everything possible to minimize the impact on our campus community.

Masks are now required at all times on campus, unless in an office or meeting space with 10 or fewer people that are each at least 6 feet apart to allow for appropriate social distancing. Although students and employees are expected to provide their own face covering; employees will be provided with one reusable mask and there will be a limited number of masks available for students if they forget. Bags with masks, sanitizer, wipes will also be distributed the first week of classes.

Additional guidance and exceptions, as well as more detailed information, will be widely announced prior to the end July.

In addition to the requirement to wear masks, the College has taken a variety of precautions to enhance campus safety including additional deep cleaning of all facilities and high-touch surfaces, the use of hospital-grade cleaning and disinfecting supplies, the installation of hand sanitizer/mask/tissue stations at building entrances, designation of one way building entrance/exit points, installation of plexiglass barriers and shields, remote and staggered staffing plans for all offices and departments, and appropriate social distancing practices. For information regarding employee accommodations, resources, etc., contact Human Resources Specialist Kristen Sides at [ksides1@jeffco.edu](mailto:ksides1@jeffco.edu).

To fully plan for the mandatory use of masks on campus during the Fall semester, I am convening a cross-functional work group to develop a comprehensive plan that includes guidelines and further clarification for classrooms and other campus spaces. If there are suggestions or concerns that you feel should be considered, employees should contact the appropriate vice president for their division and students should contact Vice President of Student Services Dr. Kim Harvey-Manus ([kharvey@jeffco.edu](mailto:kharvey@jeffco.edu)) prior to July 10.

The [Jefferson County Health Department](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommend that:

- People wear cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.
- Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- Cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
- When in public, people should maximize physical distance from others.
- People wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after they have been in a public place, or after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, they should use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. They should cover all surfaces of their hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- People should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

We know students and families, as well as our employees, have been waiting for additional information on this issue, but it is important for us to take the time to get it right. We know that students want to be back on campus, but we need to make sure that we can bring them back in as safe a manner as possible. As with everything COVID-related, this will never be "final" as we need to ensure we continue to watch the local, state, and national pandemic information and guidelines.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on campus soon. Thanks for your patience and understanding as we make decisions intended to protect the well-being of all.

Stay Safe...Stay Well,

Dr. Dena McCaffrey, President