

### **Face Coverings in the Classroom Protocol**

Respiratory droplets expelled through coughing, sneezing, or talking are a primary source of spread among individuals of the virus that causes COVID-19. These face coverings should be masks or other solid garments (preferably 4-ply) that completely cover the nose and mouth and they should be worn unless (a) alone in a personal space such as an office or room in the residence hall or (b) walking alone outdoors.

As a result, students are required to properly wear masks covering both nose and mouth in the classroom at all times and without exception (except when alone in a private space or outdoors). Faculty should ensure all students are wearing masks as they enter the classroom.

A student not wearing a mask should politely and very kindly be asked to put on their mask or be provided a disposable one should they have forgotten their mask. If the student refuses, they should be asked to leave the classroom space as well as the building.

If the student refuses this request, the class should be very calmly dismissed.

a) The faculty member can either ask the class to return to the room a short period of time later if they wish to resume class. Once all other students are dismissed, the faculty member may continue to calmly discuss the matter with the unmasked student. The student should be reminded of the Safe Owls pledge and the importance of everyone's role in the renewal of campus. The faculty member may also ask a chair or dean to assist. If necessary, the faculty member may also request assistance from University Police (662-241-7777).

OR

b) The faculty member may ask the class to not return and tell them that the class and/or content will be provided remotely or through alternative means.

For both a and b above, the faculty member should file a Behavioral Intervention (BIT) Report. Refusal of a student to wear a mask in the classroom or follow any other safety guidelines will result in disciplinary action up to and including educational sanctions and/or removal from campus in accordance with the student conduct process.