

FACE COVERINGS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Am I required to wear face coverings on campus?
 - a. Face coverings are now [mandatory on campus](#) as we closely monitor the situation over the Omicron variant of COVID. This is with the exception of solo use spaces but does include when you are sitting in offices or study spaces, unless you are socially distanced to 2 metres. Face coverings will be available from University buildings. This new guidance is irrespective of the signage around campus.
 - b. Schools will be given transparent face masks that they can distribute for staff to wear during teaching.
 - c. You should not wear face coverings where this poses additional risks to you.

2. Can I be exempt from wearing face coverings in an area where this is required?
 - a. Some staff and students may be exempt from wearing face coverings on health or disability grounds.

3. Can I be exempt from wearing face coverings for activities where this is required?
 - a. This will depend on the nature of the activity and the risk to you either from Covid or other agents that you may use or be exposed to in that environment.
 - b. If you are a student you should discuss this with whoever is supervising your activity.
 - c. If you are a member of staff you should discuss this with your line manager.

4. If people are wearing face coverings and this causes communication difficulties for me, what should I do?
 - a. Students and staff should contact [the Disability Advisory and Support Service](#) as soon as possible if they think they might have communication issues due to the wearing of face coverings.
 - b. Staff wearing face coverings during teaching sessions should [ensure that students who have communication difficulties are not disadvantaged by this. Advice should be sought from the Disability Advisory and Support Service](#)
 - c. [Action on Hearing Loss](#) has produced helpful information about communicating with people who are deaf or have hearing loss when wearing face coverings.
 - d. Disabled Students and staff can ask a person to lower their face covering to communicate with them (while maintaining social distancing), explaining they rely on lip-reading or facial expressions. However it should be noted that staff and students are able to refuse if they don't feel safe doing so.