

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT Face Coverings, Masks, and COVID-19

## Face Coverings are Now Required at All Times While on Campus\*

The use of face coverings is now required in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and at Harvard University. This guidance provides University personnel with information about the various types of face coverings and masks, and explains when they are used.

The general public should NOT use medical-grade face masks outside of the healthcare setting. Medical-grade face masks should only be used for healthcare staff and patients, and by those who perform specific work tasks requiring this level of protection.

**Face coverings do not eliminate the need for physical distancing. Always remain at least 6 feet from other people.**

### General Use

#### Cloth Face Coverings and Disposable Face Coverings



Washable, cloth face coverings or disposable, non-medical face coverings prevent the wearer from spreading large respiratory droplets to others, and to their surroundings.

They must be worn when in public and when at work in the presence of others, **even if physically distanced**, and when in common spaces at Harvard to prevent surface contamination from droplets. Please note that school or department policies may be more restrictive and that work tasks requiring additional protective measures will supersede this guidance.

### Medical or High-Risk Work Procedures Only

#### Medical-grade Face Masks



Medical-grade face masks should be reserved for healthcare staff and patients, and for those who perform specific work tasks requiring this level of protection.

**They do not eliminate the need for physical distancing.**

Some healthcare facilities, including Harvard University Health Services, require that all staff and patients use medical-grade face masks when on the premises. Doing so helps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during healthcare interactions.

#### Respirator Masks, Such as N95



Respirator masks, such as N95 masks, are reserved for situations that pose a risk due to a high concentration of infected respiratory droplets. This pertains to some types of medical examinations or procedures that might result in aerosolization of respiratory droplets.

N95 masks and other respirators are in extremely short supply and must be reserved for the people who need it the most: healthcare workers who are fighting this pandemic on the front lines and others with specific work-related requirements.

\*Except those who are exempt from the regulations

References: Please refer to Harvard's Official Coronavirus Website for information and sources