

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT ORDER OF CHANCELLOR THOMAS GIBSON

DATE OF ORDER: February 26, 2021
Goes into effect immediately.

CHANCELLOR'S ORDER ON MASK USE TO MINIMIZE SPREAD OF COVID-19

While the State of Wisconsin is currently seeing a reduction in the number of new COVID-19 cases, the continued use of face coverings is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), local health departments and healthcare professionals as an easy way to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Many medical professionals and public health experts believe that wearing face coverings is the simplest way to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus without requiring people stay in their homes.

As of the date of this order, there is a state-wide face coverings mandate that has been issued by Governor Evers. This order is intended to supplement that state-wide order for purposes of continuing to place health and safety at the forefront of campus operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Risk reduction strategies will continue to be important as our state and county strive to vaccinate people as quickly as possible and as the threat of widespread virus variants looms.

Based upon the foregoing, I, Thomas Gibson, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, by the authority vested in me by the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, including, but not limited to, Wis. Stat. sec. 36, and Wis. Admin. Code secs. UWS 17-18¹, order the following as necessary to prevent, suppress, and control the spread of COVID-19 on our campus:

1. Face Coverings. Face covering means a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. A face covering must be secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head and must fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face. Cloth face coverings must be made with two or more layers of breathable fabric that is tightly woven (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source). A face covering does not include bandanas, single layer neck gaiters, plexiglass barriers, face shields, goggles, scarves, ski masks, balaclavas, shirt or sweater collars pulled up over the mouth and nose, or masks with slits, exhalation valves, or punctures because public health experts have determined that these types of coverings are ineffective at preventing respiratory droplets from entering the air.

a. Face Covering Required. Every individual who enters campus lands shall wear a face covering:

- i. In all indoor public spaces except students in their assigned residence hall rooms and employees when alone in a private, unshared office or lab;
- ii. In line to enter any enclosed building;
- iii. While riding a campus bus or when two or more people are present in a university vehicle; and
- iv. Outside when not able to physically distance or when traveling in a group of two or more individuals;

¹ In addition to the generalize authority cited above, this order is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Wisconsin and applicable policies in the University of Wisconsin System, including, but not limited to the following: Wis. Stat. s. 36.11(1)a., Wis. Admin. Code ss. UWS 17.09(1), UWS 17.09(8), UWS 17.09 (14), UWS 17.09 (15), UWS 18.08(9)(b), UWS 18.11(7)(e), Regent Policy 23-2, and Regent Resolution 11467.

v. Completing the COVID-19 vaccination series does not exempt individuals from complying with testing and the face covering requirement.

b. Exceptions. Requests for exceptions to this order should be made to Human Resources (employees) or Disability and Assistive Technology Center (students) and will be evaluated on an individualized basis utilizing the interactive reasonable accommodations process.

2. Severability. If any provision of this order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this order are severable.

3. Duration. This Order shall become effective Wednesday, February 26, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. This Order shall remain in effect until July 1, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.