

CWSL Mask Policy

Effective August 5, 2021 (Rev. 1-20-22)

Dear CWSL community:

This document outlines the types of masks that are acceptable on the CWSL campus as part of the mitigation efforts to reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

The most protective masks are properly fitted N95 masks, followed by KN95 and KF94 masks. Surgical masks are more protective than cloth masks. Cloth masks, worn alone, provide the least protection. The California Department of Public Health provides an overview of the different types of masks and their level of effectiveness: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Get-the-Most-out-of-Masking.aspx>. All masks must be well-fitted (i.e., no gaps between the mask and your face) and cover both the nose and mouth.

If you do not wear an acceptable mask, you may pick up an acceptable mask at the CWSL security desk in the 350 building, with the expectation that you obtain an acceptable mask as soon as possible.

Acceptable Masks

- N95 masks
- KN95 and KF94 masks
- Surgical masks
- Tight-fitting, double-layered cloth masks. These masks are discouraged, but not prohibited. If combining a cloth mask with a surgical mask, wear the surgical mask under the cloth mask.
- Masks with FDA approved use, including but not limited to, medical grade clear masks (e.g., <https://www.theclearmask.com/education>)

Unacceptable Masks

- Single layer cloth masks
- Loose-fitting masks
- Masks with valves or filters
- Masks with holes

Face shields and other face coverings

- Clear face shields can be worn over an acceptable mask, but not in lieu of an acceptable mask
- Other face coverings that are not face masks are not considered acceptable masks.

Additional information can be found at:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html>
- <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/face-masks-including-surgical-masks-and-respirators-covid-19>

CWSL reserves the right to update this policy. Thank you for your adherence to this policy, and we look forward to a healthy return to in-person operations.