

May 2, 2020

Dear Stanford students living in off-campus subsidized housing,

Please accept this message as an expression of genuine care and concern for your well-being and that of our Stanford employees and their families, particularly front-line workers, during these unrelenting and difficult times.

We also hope to provide some clarity on how the updated [Santa Clara County Shelter-In-Place Order](#), [San Mateo County Shelter-In-Place Order](#), and subsequent [University guidance](#) will impact your experience in your off-campus apartment and when you are on campus. These measures take effect on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 11:59 pm.

Off-campus subsidized housing is located in either Santa Clara County or San Mateo County, and there are some differences in the new Shelter-in-Place orders. We recommend students pay attention to any notices posted by the apartment management regarding expectations for use of common areas of the apartment complex for the duration of the new Shelter-in-Place order.

If you are traveling to campus on essential business, we would like you to be aware that [Stanford has adopted additional protocols including the wearing of face coverings in all University buildings](#). Students are required to wear a face covering when picking up to-go meals in the dining halls, going to the Market at Munger or the Axe & Palm and attending the Pop-Up Food Pantry.

Face covering use is [strongly encouraged](#) outdoors on campus whenever personal interactions within 6 feet are likely to occur (for instance, walking through the Main Quad). For your safety, face coverings are [not required](#) when exercising outdoors on campus, but physical distancing is still very important.

Students are responsible for their own face covering wherever possible. The face covering does not need to be a factory-made mask; all that is required is that you cover your nose and mouth. A bandana, scarf, or other piece of cloth or fabric will work, so long as the wearer can breathe comfortably and the covering does not have to be adjusted frequently. The following are the few exceptions where face coverings are not required on campus:

- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- Any worker to the extent wearing a face covering creates a safety hazard at work under established health and safety guidelines;
- Any child aged two years or younger because of the risk of suffocation, along with any child 12 years or younger as advised by a medical professional; or,
- Anyone who has been advised by a medical professional not to wear a face covering – students in this situation should follow up with the [Office of Accessible Education \(OAE\)](#) to receive an accommodation, and employees should contact their HR manager.

Most importantly, students need to maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet in all University facilities. Again, this is not only for your health and safety, but equally for the Stanford employees that you may encounter. For clarity, although wearing a face covering is one tool for reducing the spread of the virus, doing so is not a substitute for physical distancing of at least 6 feet and frequent hand washing.

We recognize that this is a significant challenge, as each measure is rooted in the care for your health and well-being and our collective effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. There will be face coverings available, for a limited time, starting Monday, May 4 to help us in this transition at the residential dining halls and front desks. Please do not hesitate to ask for help from your [GLO Dean](#). We encourage you to continue to access the [Well-Being at Stanford](#) virtual resources for additional support during this time of unexpected change.

Thank you for keeping yourself and our community safe and healthy during this new shelter-in-place order. We will get through this together!

With gratitude,

Mona and Shirley

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