

May 2, 2020

Dear Stanford students,

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](#) and subsequent [University guidance](#) will impact your residential and dining, and community experience. These measures take effect on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 11:59 pm.

First, [Stanford has adopted additional protocols including the wearing of face coverings in all University buildings](#) outside of your apartment or dorm unit. 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. Meal deliveries can be made available for students who need additional support and can be arranged through your [Residence Dean](#) or [GLO Dean](#).

Face covering use is [strongly encouraged](#) outdoors 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, 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:

- 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 outside of your apartment or dorm unit, including all members of your family and/or household or unit outside of that space. 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. This is particularly important when picking up to-go meals in all dining establishments.

Lastly, under this [new guidance](#), common areas, including but not limited to lounges, community kitchens, study rooms, and computer clusters will be closed and must not be used. All residents are urged to remove personal belongings from those spaces before the order takes effect on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 11:59 pm. Students with dietary and religious accommodations will still be able to access community kitchens during this time and should contact your [Residence Dean](#) or [GLO Dean](#) for support. Laundry rooms will remain open and students will need to wear a face covering and continue to maintain physical distancing as set forth above when they are out of their apartment or dorm room. For some relief, students are not required to wear masks in their immediate hallways or common bathrooms, although it is strongly encouraged.

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 [Residence Dean](#) or [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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