

BREVARD COLLEGE FACE COVERING POLICY

We must all work together to create the safest possible environment for our students, employees, visitors, and surrounding community as we return to work and welcome students back to campus. The best way to meet the public health challenge that COVID-19 presents is for each one of us to follow a set of vitally important protocols in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

Following CDC guidance, and per the newly issued statement by the NC Governor, we have modified our expectations for faculty, staff, and students and will make face coverings mandatory at Brevard College, effective immediately.

Every faculty, staff and student must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth while indoors – including in classrooms, library, auditoriums, and meeting spaces. These may be cloth/reusable or disposable. **Gaiters and face masks with a valve will not be considered appropriate face-coverings. Only face masks will be considered appropriate.** This decision was made based on a study conducted by Duke University. Employees may remove their face coverings when in their individual offices when alone. Face coverings are also required outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Faculty, staff and students are required to have a face covering with them whenever and wherever they are on campus. We are also requiring visitors and guests to honor our efforts to keep our campus community safe; as such, these policies apply to all visitors, vendors, and independent contractors.

Face coverings will be provided to faculty, staff and students; employees who have questions about how to obtain face coverings should speak with their department chair or supervisor.

Individuals – employees and students – may also use their own face coverings, provided they meet CDC guidelines.

We are relying on members of our community to adhere to these standards, but when necessary, we also will enforce these behaviors. This will include asking students who do not have a face covering to leave the classroom, campus building, or other venue and only return when they have a face covering. Students who continue to violate this policy may be subject to further action per the Student Code of Conduct. Similarly, employees who do not wear a face covering may be subject to disciplinary action based on our policies regarding employee performance and behaviors in the workplace.

A task force of faculty, staff, and students is currently exploring the appropriate mechanisms for implementing, reinforcing, and enforcing this important mandate and will provide further details in the near future.

This novel virus has forced all of us to adopt new patterns of behavior that are sometimes awkward and uncomfortable. Wearing a face covering is an expression of care, an acknowledgment of community, and a vital part of our plan to make Brevard College as safe as possible for everyone.