Mask Guidelines for Academic Courses
(See BYU COVID19 Guidelines for additional topics and information)

- Cloth face coverings and disposable masks provide a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people providing source control for respiratory infections, including COVID-19.
- Cloth face coverings do not provide respiratory protection from chemical vapors, toxins or biological aerosol exposure and are not a substitute for respiratory protection.
  - Respiratory protection specific for hazardous work such as KN95 mask, an N95 respirator, or a powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) will be provided.
- Per BYU policy, students and employees are required to wear face coverings that cover their nose and mouth in all classroom settings. Exceptions, as outlined by the CDC, should be discussed with your supervisor and alternatives should be used whenever possible.
- Cloth face coverings supplement, but do not replace, social distancing precautions. Maintain 6 feet distance (at least two arm lengths) from others in the classroom whenever possible. If you are less than 6 feet away for 10 minutes or longer with a COVID-19 positive person you are considered a close contact.
- Wash hands regularly and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Always have a clean backup face covering in the event your face covering becomes damaged, soiled, or wet.
- As with all personal protective equipment (such as gloves and lab coats) masks worn in the laboratory should not be worn in public areas of buildings. Face coverings should be changed after laboratory classes and laundered before re-use.
- Some laboratory work may require the use of disposable facemasks in place of personal cloth face coverings based on risk analysis.
  - Work with radioactive materials, biosafety level 2 microorganisms, chemical or biological toxins, or highly reactive materials are required to wear disposable face covering.
- Extreme caution should be used when working with open flames. Masks, both disposable and cloth, pose a fire hazard.
  - If you are working with pyrophoric chemicals only flame-resistant face masks should be worn.
- Face masks may cause required eye protection to fog up. Do not remove either the face covering or the eye protection to complete the task. Anti-fogging spray should be applied to eye protection to prevent fogging.

Reusable face coverings

- Personal face coverings must fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, allow for breathing without restriction, and do not have an exhalation valve.
- Use cloth face coverings until they become damaged, soiled or wet.
- Store in a plastic or paper bag until face covering can be laundered.
- Cloth face coverings should be laundered daily by the user. The coverings can be machine-washed with warm or hot soapy water with other laundry items.

Disposable face coverings

- Must fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and allow for breathing without restriction.
- Use until damaged, soiled or wet.
- Discard in normal trash or in hazardous material waste if contaminated.
- May be re-used if undamaged or soiled. Should be lightly sprayed with 70% isopropanol and stored in a clean paper bag.
Donning and Doffing Face Coverings

- Always don face coverings with clean hands. Do not touch or adjust mask without washing hands first.
  - Face coverings should cover both your nose and mouth.
- Doffing masks after laboratory work – Disposable masks
  - With clean hands, doff mask by the ear loops, straps, or equivalent from behind the head making sure not to touch eyes, nose or mouth and discard mask in the trash. Don personal facemask before entering public areas of the building.
- Doffing masks after laboratory work – Personal cloth covering
  - With clean hands remove mask, making sure not to touch your eyes, nose, mouth or inside of the mask. Mist mask with 70% Isopropanol (Do NOT soak it)
  - Don new personal cloth face covering.
  - Launder cloth face coverings at home every day after use in the laboratory classroom.

DOS and DONTS of Wearing a Mask (From The New York Times)