

September 27, 2021

UW Oshkosh Office of the Chancellor Order – 08102021-01.1

DATE OF ORDER: September 28, 2021; Goes into effect immediately, superseding all previous orders.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), local health departments and healthcare professionals continue to cite masks and face coverings as easy ways to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Many medical professionals and public health experts believe that wearing face coverings is the simplest way to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus without requiring people stay to in their homes.

UW Oshkosh is working in collaboration with health officials to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus without requiring people stay in their homes. There continues to be concerning trends with COVID-19 in Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties. As of September 27, both Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties remain in **VERY HIGH** transmission rate. The burden rate in Fond du Lac County is 806.0 per 100,000 cases with an 9.4% seven-day average positivity rate. The burden rate in Winnebago County is 796.6 per 100,000 cases with an 8.6% seven-day average positivity rate. Hospitalizations in the Fox Valley Region are growing at a rate of 23% in the last 14 days with nearly 90% of hospital and ICU beds in use. In Fond du Lac County, eligible residents are fully vaccinated at a rate of 46.4%. In Winnebago County, eligible residents are fully vaccinated at a rate of 51.7%.

Based upon the foregoing, I, Andrew J. Leavitt, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, by the authority vested in me by the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, including, but not limited to, Wis. Stat. ch. 36, and Wis. Admin. Code secs. UWS 17-18¹, order the following as necessary to prevent, suppress, and control the spread of COVID-19 on UWO campuses:

- 1. Face Coverings.** Face covering means a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. A face covering must be secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head and must fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face. Cloth face coverings must be made with two or

¹ This order is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Wisconsin and applicable policies in the University of Wisconsin System, including but not limited to: Wis. Stats. ss. 36.11(1)(a) and (c), 36.09(1)(a), (f) and (L), 36.35(2) and 101.11; Wis. Admin. Code ss. UWS 18.11(6)(a) and (7)(e), UWS 18.08(9)(b), UWS 18.13, UWS 17.09(1), (14) and (15); and Regent Policy 23-2.”

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

800 Algoma Blvd. | Oshkosh, WI 54901

PHONE (920) 424-0200 | FAX (920) 424-0010 | WEB uwosh.edu/chancellor

more layers of breathable fabric that is tightly woven (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source). A face covering does not include bandanas, single layer neck gaiters, face shields, goggles, scarves, ski masks, balaclavas, shirt or sweater collars pulled up over the mouth and nose, or masks with slits, exhalation valves, or punctures because public health experts have determined that these types of coverings are ineffective at preventing respiratory droplets from entering the air.

a. Face Covering Required. Every individual, regardless of vaccination status, who enters campus buildings must wear a face covering:

i. In all indoor public spaces except students in their assigned residence hall rooms and employees when alone in a private, unshared office or lab;

ii. While riding a campus shuttle or when two or more people are present in a university vehicle;

b. Exceptions. Requests for exceptions to this order should be made to the Dean of Students for students and to Human Resources for employees and will be evaluated on an individualized basis utilizing the interactive reasonable accommodations process.

2. Enforcement. The UW Oshkosh Human Resources Department, Dean of Students Office, and Police Department are authorized to enforce this order. Violations may result in employee discipline, student discipline citation and/or fine under UWS Chapter 18 and UW Oshkosh employee expectations.

3. Severability. If any provision of this order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this order are severable.

4. Duration. This order becomes effective Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The order/policy will expire at 12 a.m., Thursday, November 25, 2021, unless extended, terminated, or otherwise modified based on changing conditions related the COVID-19 Delta (or other) variants, including but not limited to changes in CDC guidance, state and local public health conditions, and campus safety.



Andrew J. Leavitt, Chancellor
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

800 Algoma Blvd. | Oshkosh, WI 54901

PHONE (920) 424-0200 | FAX (920) 424-0010 | WEB uwosh.edu/chancellor