February 28, 2022

UW Oshkosh Office of the Chancellor Order – 08102021-01.6

DATE OF ORDER: Effective March 1, 2022, 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 to stay in their homes.

Cases have been declining locally, statewide, and nationally. The 7-day average percent positivity in WI is 6.4% as of 2/23/22. Regional counties that service UW Oshkosh campuses went from “Critically High” to the “Very High” transmission category for infection. Eligible residents in Wisconsin are vaccinated at a rate of 58.2%. The UWO community has a 7-day average positivity of 1.4% as of Feb. 25, 2022, alongside a 74% vaccination rate for students and 78% for employees.

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 17-18, 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 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 snuggly but comfortably against the side of the face. Cloth face coverings must be made with two or more layers of breathable fabric 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.

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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.”
because public health experts have determined that these types of coverings are ineffective at preventing respiratory droplets from entering the air.

a. **Face Covering Highly Encouraged.** Every individual, regardless of vaccination status, who enters University buildings is highly encouraged to wear a face covering.

b. **Face Covering Required.** Every individual, regardless of vaccination status, who enters University classrooms or labs must wear a face covering.

c. **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, March 1, 2022. The order/policy will expire at 12 a.m., Sunday, March 20, 2022, unless extended, terminated, or otherwise modified based on changing conditions related to 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