



Face Coverings in UH Mānoa Labs

As a public health measure to combat the spread of COVID-19, face coverings* are required **as set forth in UH Personal Safety Practices**. This flowchart provides guidance regarding some common concerns related to wearing face coverings in UH Mānoa labs.

START

Wear a face covering as set forth in [UH Personal Safety Practices](#) unless you are working in isolation in a lab. "Isolation" is intended to mean that no one else is inside the lab/room.

Do you have any medical concerns that may preclude your use of face coverings in any situation (not just in lab)?

YES

Submit a request for a reasonable accommodation ([EEO/AA](#) for employees and [KOKUA Office](#) for students). Establish a plan for keeping yourself and others around you safe. Alternatives to face coverings may include the use of face shields which may not be as protective against aerosols for the wearer or as source control for others and should be used in connection with other controls such as increased physical distancing.

NO

Do you work with volatile hazardous chemicals, hazardous dusts, processes that generate metal fumes, procedures that generate biohazardous aerosols, or radioactive materials that can be aerosolized/volatilized?

NO

There should not be an appreciable risk of face covering contamination under standard safe practices for lab work. Wear a face covering and keep a spare on hand in case of spills or splashes.

YES

Consult [UH Biosafety](#) and/or [UH Radiation Safety](#), on appropriate face coverings as special precautions may be necessary.

Do you work with open flames, pyrophoric materials, or large quantities of flammables?

YES

Do not wear face coverings made of synthetic polymers or elastics (note that most surgical masks are made of polypropylene). **CONSIDER PURCHASING EITHER FR OR NATURAL FIBER CLOTH MASKS.**

NO

Outside of overt spills or splashes, does performing this work under standard safe lab practices (e.g. use of a fume hood or biosafety cabinet) pose a routine risk of contaminating the face covering?

NO

Use of a face covering in lab is not expected to introduce an additional health and safety risk. Wear a face covering and keep a spare on hand in case of spills or splashes.

YES

Are you normally [required to wear respiratory protection](#) such as an N95 respirator when performing this work?

YES

Wear your PPE as assigned. Avoid N95s with exhalation valves as they do not serve as a means of source control for others. Note: N95's should be reserved for medical workers and those assigned to do so. Using one a voluntary basis requires being provided OSHA's [Appendix D](#).

NO

Continue to wear face covering as per [UH Personal Safety Practices](#). Contact [EHSO](#) to discuss any concerns.

* Face coverings means a cloth, paper, or disposable face covering that covers the nose and the mouth. More information can be found in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).