

ADDRESSING FACE COVERING NONCOMPLIANCE BY STUDENTS

1. Know the requirements and model behavior.

- Review the latest requirement to wear face coverings on the UTHSC Update website. <https://www.uthsc.edu/afsa/academic-continuity/updates.php>
- Set an example for students and one another. Students will follow your lead.

2. Decide whether to intervene.

Understand and acknowledge your own feelings about your level of comfort with intervention. A willingness to intervene, if you choose to do so, is consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. If you are not comfortable intervening, contact your chair, program director, your college's student affairs dean, or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards at 901.448.5610 or sccs@uthsc.edu for assistance.

Clear, consistent, and immediate intervention is important to ongoing compliance and campus safety.

3. Attempt to educate the student.

Intervene politely and in the spirit of compassion, flexibility, and creativity.

- Inform the student of the requirement.
- Remind students why face coverings and social distancing matter. Focus on the three key benefits:
 1. protecting themselves and others, including those who are at high risk for serious illness
 2. helping to keep the campus open
 3. reducing their chances of having to self-isolate because of close contact with a person with COVID-19.
- Offer the student a university-provided mask if needed.

A student may indicate a medical concern related to wearing a face covering. To discuss accommodations to the face covering requirement due to a medical condition, students should contact Student Academic Support Services and Inclusion (SASSI), and employees and visitors should contact the Office of Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity (OIED).

4. Take action if the student continues to refuse to wear a face covering.

- Politely but firmly direct the student to leave the area if they are noncompliant. This includes leaving the building entirely.
- Faculty and staff members have control over their spaces. In a classroom or laboratory, instructors can dismiss noncompliant students and mark them absent for the day.
- If the student refuses to leave the space, step away from the confrontation and contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for assistance at 901.448.5610. If needed, the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards may contact UTHSC Police. Do not contact UTHSC Police for routine situations.

5. Report the Matter to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

If attempts to change behavior are unsuccessful, you can report noncompliance to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards through the student conduct incident report form found here <https://www.uthsc.edu/sace/student-conduct/index.php>. Document your attempts to correct the behavior in writing.

Incidents where the student became hostile should be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, which will follow its process for investigating noncompliance with university requirements.

Contact sccs@uthsc.edu or sace@uthsc.edu for assistance or more information. For immediate assistance during normal business hours, call 901.448.5610.

If you report the student's noncompliance to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, also notify the student affairs dean of the student's college.