STUDENT MASK REQUIREMENT IN ACADEMIC SPACES
Scripts for Faculty About Wearing Masks in the classroom, lab, etc.

All students, faculty, and staff are required to wear masks that cover their mouth and nose while indoors on campuses.

The Pandemic Preparedness Team has approved only gaiters as alternatives to mask; face shields, scarves and bandanas are not approved alternatives. Students who are unable to wear a mask or gaiter should be referred to the Student Disability Center, who will work with them to find alternative study arrangements.

**General statement to the entire class:**

“I want to acknowledge it is a different start to the fall semester during this time, and we are all being asked to adjust. What this will mean for us is we are going to take care of ourselves and each other. That includes following the CSU COVID guidance to wear masks while indoors.”

**Sample exchange if a student shows-up in your class without a mask:** "Hi, I noticed you don’t have your mask on. It is CSU policy that everyone wear a mask while indoors on campuses, including while in class, so I have to ask you to put one on before we can get started. You can go to the book store to get one. Thanks."

**If the student refuses to wear a mask:**

"I must remind you it is University policy that everyone is required to wear a mask while indoors on campuses. This is for the health of everyone in the room and it is not my decision to ask you to wear a mask. If you are not going to wear a mask today, I must ask you to leave and I report this as a public health violation through the COVID Reporter. You will receive follow up from the Public Health office, and possibly the Student Resolution Center for both a policy and student conduct code violation."

Students may not be in a building without a mask, even if they have an accommodation. There should be no student in a classroom without a mask. If a student says that they cannot wear a mask for health reasons and they have worked with the Student Disability Center for an exemption, and they are not wearing a mask, please refer them back to the Student Disability Center.

The Pandemic Preparedness Team has approved gaiters as an alternative to masks. Face shields, bandanas and scarves are not an appropriate alternative to a mask. Mask with vents are not permitted.

Unlike last academic year, students will not have a letter from the Student Disability Center if they are wearing an alternative that is not a gaiter.
If the student refuses to leave:

Stay calm and simply note the policy. Do not get drawn into an argument with the student. It is not the role or job of the instructor to enforce this policy. Ask the student to respect the University's policy, note it is for the benefit of all students, and ask them to leave again. Tell them their continued refusal to wear a mask in class or leave creates a disruption in the classroom. Creating a disruption in class could result in a disciplinary action under the Student Conduct Code. Tell them that it would be best for everyone if they simply left the room.

Finally, if you feel comfortable doing so and believe it to be appropriate, let the student know if they do not put on a mask or leave, you will need to call the appropriate authorities. You may then call the CSU Police Department at (970) 491-6425 or 911 to ask for help. CSUPD does not enforce the mask policy, but can help get the student to leave the classroom.

There may be a variety of reasons why you as the instructor do not feel comfortable engaging CSUPD in these situations.

If that is the case and the situation has nonetheless escalated such that continuing the class feels impossible, instructors should not hesitate to simply dismiss the entire class for the day.

Refusing to wear a mask is not considered an excused absence from class.

Updated Aug. 18, 2021