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SOE Classroom safety questions and answers

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This document is meant as a compilation and as a reminder of answers to common questions expressed by SOE community members as we begin the 2021-22 academic year.

Please refer to U-M Campus Maize and Blueprint (<https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/>) for up-to-date university policies and guidance, and COVID-19 updates for the SOE community (<https://soe.umich.edu/covid19-updates>).

Face Covering Policy Accountability

- **What if a student is not wearing a mask in class or refuses to wear one?**
 - Our protocols of the past 17 months remain in place around masking. Here is a [link](#) to shared campus language that you can include on your syllabus. This language has been reviewed by numerous groups, including the Provost's Office, Student Government, SACUA, and our General Counsel. You are welcome to adjust so the style and tone is consistent with the rest of your syllabus as long as the main points remain.
 - If a student enters the classroom without a mask, we suggest a gentle reminder. Many people just may be forgetting to mask up as they enter the building.
 - It is also a good idea to ask if a student has a qualified exemption under the [Face Covering Policy](#).
 - In the unlikely event that a student in class refuses to comply after being reminded politely, instructors can ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the instructor can leave and cancel class. Please note that these steps should be taken only as a last resort, and instructors should report to their department, school, or college if a case such as this does arise.

- **What if someone is not wearing a mask in the building or refuses to wear one?**
 - If you see someone without a mask, we suggest a gentle reminder. Many people just may be forgetting to mask up as they enter the building. Extra masks can be found in the Facilities Office (Room 1002) and the Dean's Office (we are also stocking classrooms with extra masks).
 - In the unlikely event that someone in your office refuses to comply after being reminded politely, please contact the Dean's Office or Ryan Noel, Chief of Staff.

Classroom considerations in the event of quarantine and COVID-19

- **What happens if a student in your class tests positive for COVID-19 or must quarantine?**
 - In general, class meetings can continue. Only those in close contact (someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) may need to quarantine. For more information, see the [COVID-19 in the Classroom Instructor Guide](#).

- It's worth noting here that all last year there were **no cases** of classroom transmission of COVID, even in high touch university courses, such as clinical dentistry and nursing practice.
- **What are my instructional responsibilities to students under quarantine?**
 - Course materials should be made accessible virtually to the extent that this is feasible, and reasonable accommodations made to complete coursework. It is up to the discretion of the instructor and/or program (especially in the case of certification programs) how to manage making up course requirements (e.g. allowing extensions, replacement assignments, etc.) If you have questions or need support, then please see your Program Chairs for advice.
- **What if I must quarantine due to exposure or a positive COVID-19 test result?**
 - Contact your chair or director to determine the best option for the particular circumstance, such as temporary remote delivery or a substitute instructor.

Workplace considerations in the event of quarantine and COVID-19

- **What happens someone who works in your office tests positive for COVID-19 or must quarantine?**
 - Only those in [close contact](#) may need to quarantine and will receive communication as part of the contact tracing process still in place.
 - It's worth noting here that all last year there were no cases of classroom transmission of COVID, even in high touch university courses, such as clinical dentistry and nursing practice. In addition, our active research labs had no transmission.
 - Our public health team is routinely monitoring wastewater in campus buildings and they have not found evidence of COVID shed, which is a positive safety indicator.
- **What if I must quarantine due to exposure or a positive COVID-19 test result?**
 - Notify your supervisor.
 - Call the Occupational Health Services (OHS) Hotline at (734) 764-8021 to receive guidance regarding testing, quarantine, and health care.

I'm certain that there are more questions about how to manage the uncertainties of the coming semester. To try to address your questions in a digestible format, we are putting together video guides and updates that will draw from questions we have been receiving over the summer. Please keep an eye out for these videos; they are sure to be cinematic triumphs while also delivering a wealth of information.

If you have additional questions you would like us to cover, then please send them to soe.office.of.the.dean@umich.edu