

Motion on Mask Regulations

Purpose: Based on the flexible status of acceptable face coverings, the Student Government Association is concerned with the effectiveness of certain options that are currently permitted, particularly gaiters, masks with filters, face shields, and bandanas. The SGA hopes to promote safety and well-being throughout the student body and faculty. Based on a variety of studies, including recommendations from the [*Center for Disease Control & Prevention*](#) and [*MIT Medical*](#), we believe that the lack of efficacy of **gaiters, masks with filters, bandanas, and face shields** increases the potential risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

The What: We strongly recommend that the College reconsider and review their policy regarding acceptable face coverings, given the questionable efficacy of those which are currently allowable. Specifically, we recommend that the College prohibit the wearing of bandanas, neck buffs/gaiters, masks with exhalation valves, and face shields as facial coverings.

The How: The College will be responsible for committing to a review of their current acceptable standards for allowable face coverings. This recommendation will be communicated through a letter to the College signed by SGA.

The Who: The College will be primarily responsible for organizing and executing a review of current allowable face coverings.

Strengths and Importance: Given the questionable efficacy of gaiters, masks with filters, face shields, and bandanas, we believe that it is extremely important to reconsider and review the acceptable face coverings in order to protect the health and safety of the student body and faculty.

Possible Risk Areas: Possible risks include staff and student reluctance to complying with the new requirements.

Questions Already Addressed: What has the College said thus far regarding the current face covering policy? The College has previously communicated that they do not have preference or restrictions regarding types of facial coverings.

Contact Information for questioning, clarification, or pre-meeting critiques:

Name & Year: Class Representatives Cat Merkle, Josh Brause, Anthony Burnett, Silas Gramaglia, and Jackson Rockett

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Favorable Hours to Meet: Thursday, 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Resources

Face Shields:

[*MIT Medical*](#): "A face shield, by nature of its design, would be more likely to allow these droplets to escape"

Masks with Valves:

[*CDC*](#): "The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others."

Gaiters:

[*Washington Post*](#)

<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/36/eabd3083>