



Face Shields Protocol

July 6, 2020

Some faculty have requested using face shields rather than coverings in the classroom because they allow for lip reading, more visible facial cues and a belief that a face shield will be easier to use than a face covering when lecturing. A face shield for faculty in the classroom has been approved by President Armacost as long as faculty maintain the 6 ft. distance from others. Faculty should stand behind the Plexiglas barrier in addition to wearing a face shield. Face shields are not approved for use by students who must wear a face covering in the classroom.

As faculty consider whether to wear a face shield in lieu of a face covering, they should understand the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has not advised the public to wear face shields, partly because they qualify as personal protective equipment (PPE) and are often worn by doctors and health care workers in hospitals along with a mask. The ND Department of Health states a face shield is most commonly used in combination with a mask. They further state a face shield alone does not protect you, or the people in the room with you, as well as a mask alone does.

Faculty are encouraged to wear a face covering, but can request a face shield as an alternative while teaching in the classroom as long as they maintain a 6-foot physical distance from others. Faculty who prefer to wear the face shield should request this through their department chairperson and dean. Reusable face shields have been ordered centrally and will be available for faculty to wear. We will continue to monitor the supply chain for face shields and will inform faculty should there be any procurement challenges. Students and staff will also be informed that only faculty will be allowed to wear a face shield. Faculty are required to wear a face mask in any social interaction outside of lecture. The face shield is not an acceptable alternative for a face mask in any situation other than lecture or lab instruction.