

A Resolution of the Bowling Green State University Faculty Senate

Title: Resolution on the Use of Facial Coverings in the Classroom

Presented on: July 7, 2020

By: Marlise Lonn

On behalf of: the Senate Executive Committee.

WHEREAS Bowling Green State University (BGSU) students, faculty, staff, and administrators have been teaching, learning, working, and meeting remotely since Spring Break 2020 due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; (1)

AND WHEREAS BGSU is committed to reopening its campuses while managing risk to the health and well-being of the campus communities; (2)

AND WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the State of Ohio, and Ohio Department of Health have provided guidance on specific behaviors, including the correct use of face coverings, to slow the transmission of COVID-19 ([CDC](#) ; [ODH](#)); (3)

AND WHEREAS the State of Ohio has a Public Health Advisory System that provides data driven guidance at the county level ([Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#)) with associated guidelines, public health orders, and protocols for the responsible return to work ([COVID-19 Responsible Protocols](#)); (4)

AND WHEREAS BGSU, through consultation with working groups comprised of faculty, staff, administrators, and local health authorities, has crafted protocols and guidelines to provide for a safer return to campuses ([Return to Campus Plan](#)) that includes the appropriate use of facial coverings and physical distancing; (5)

AND WHEREAS there are some recognized necessary and reasonable exemptions to wearing a face covering; (6)

AND WHEREAS some members of the campus communities will seek and receive formal exemption from the requirement of wearing facial coverings; (7)

AND WHEREAS protecting the health of all campus' community members must be prioritized in the classroom and other teaching and learning spaces; (8)

AND WHEREAS the Faculty Senate "reaffirms the present practice which places the primary responsibility for the classroom environment with the instructor" (Part (D), Article (2), Section (f) of the [Academic Charter](#)).

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED it is in the best interest of the BGSU campus communities for students, faculty, staff, and administrators to adhere to the requirement to correctly and continuously "wear a face covering in all indoor public and shared environments" ([Face Coverings](#)) on campus, which includes classrooms and other teaching and learning spaces, in accordance with the prevailing guidelines; (10)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that exceptions to correctly and continuously wearing facial coverings only be made when formal documentation of an approved exemption or accommodation granted by an official BGSU entity with the authority to do so is provided (11)

(exemptions shall be requested via the process that will be available on the [Face Coverings](#) web page after Aug 1, 2020);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that instructors maintain the right to dismiss from class students who refuse to comply or to dismiss the class if the offending student refuses to leave. (12)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any member of the University Community shall maintain the right to leave a shared space (including a classroom) that is occupied by a person who refuses to comply with the prevailing BGSU face covering guidelines. (13)