Suggested COVID-19 Syllabus Statement

Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the following safety requirements are in place to minimize exposure to the Florida State University community. These guidelines apply to all face-to-face classes held either inside an FSU building or outside. These guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of all students, faculty, and staff during the pandemic. Anyone who does not comply will be in violation of the University’s Student Conduct Code (https://sccs.fsu.edu/conduct-codes/student-conduct-codes), specifically violation B.2, “Action(s) that imminently endanger the health, or safety of another person or group” (p. 10).

Face coverings are required for all students and faculty while in class, no matter the size of the space. Following this recommendation can minimize the transmission of the virus, which is spread between people interacting in close proximity through speaking, coughing, or sneezing. The CDC recommends wearing a cloth face covering in public settings. For outdoor class settings where social distancing is not possible (i.e., enabling at least six feet space between individuals), face coverings must also be worn.

Instructors have the right to deny a student entry into the classroom if the student is not wearing a face covering. Face coverings must remain in place throughout the class. Any student who removes the mandatory face covering during class will be required to leave the classroom immediately.

Students who are unable to wear a face covering for a legitimate medical reason must indicate this to the Office of Accessibility Services and an alternative schedule will be determined. Students may not remain in the class without a face covering due to a medical condition. During specified classes in which face coverings would prevent required elements, students may remove masks with instructor permission.

Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Students shall observe current social distancing guidelines in all instructional spaces, both indoors and outdoors. Students should avoid congregating around instructional space entrances before and after class sessions. Students should exit the instructional space immediately after the end of class to help ensure social distancing and to allow for those attending the next scheduled class session to enter. If directional traffic guidelines are in place for an instructional space, students must follow them.

These requirements are necessary because not everyone who is contagious exhibits symptoms of infection. Students who feel ill should follow University and health care provider guidelines for evaluating their health status, both to ensure the best health outcome for the student and also to limit transmission of COVID-19. However, even students who do not exhibit symptoms must abide by these face covering and social distancing rules at all times while on campus.

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