Youngstown State University  Classroom Safety and Health Protocols

The following policy applies and shall be enforced during the current coronavirus pandemic as recognized by the State of Ohio.

As a consequence of the current coronavirus pandemic, students are expected to abide by all safety and health policies implemented by the University’s Office of Environmental Occupational Health and Safety as well as all applicable local, state, and federal mandates. Currently, the City of Youngstown and the State of Ohio mandates a face covering/mask in public spaces. Consistent with federal, state and local guidelines, University Health Guidelines require that all individuals within campus buildings, including students, properly wear face coverings except when working alone within an enclosed area. Face coverings are in addition to maintaining appropriate social distancing when possible. Exceptions to wearing a face covering in a classroom or laboratory must be for justifiable reasons as approved by the Office of Disability Services (https://ysu.edu/center-for-student-progress/disability-services). Repeated violations of any coronavirus safety and health policy shall be handled in accord with The Student Code of Conduct (https://ysu.edu/student-conduct/code-conduct).

General Classroom Guidelines

- Minimum six-foot physical distancing must be preserved to the greatest extent feasible by students, faculty and students coming to campus.
- Face covering must be worn while inside any campus building; this includes the face-to-face classroom setting
- Students are not allowed entry into the classroom without a face covering
- Hygiene and sanitation procedures may be stricter for classrooms with labs or for courses where there is a possible increase of transmission (eg. music related courses, courses involving close physical activity)
- Disinfecting wipes/sprays will be provided in classrooms that are used for face-to-face course instruction
- Faculty and students will be responsible for wiping down their work areas at the beginning of each class
- Assigned seating is required to help contact tracing if a fellow classmate were to be exposed to COVID-19
- Daily attendance will be performed by students using an electronic scanning method to determine which students are present for the class to help contact tracing fellow classmates
- To limit chances of transmission, no eating allowed in the classrooms. Only drinks with sealable containers can be used in class (eg. water bottle with lid)
- Communicate any concerns/issues immediately to EOHS

Instructor Safety Procedures

- Faculty must teach with a face covering or face shield
- Assigned seating is required to help contact tracing if a fellow classmate were to be exposed to COVID-19
- Daily attendance will be performed by students using an electronic scanning method to determine which students are present for the class to help contact tracing fellow classmates
- It is recommended that faculty minimize the amount of assignments in paper form
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- Faculty should use hand sanitizer before and after touching computers or other shared classroom items.
- Faculty using classroom technology such as computers should sanitize the keyboard, mouse etc. prior to use.
- Faculty who utilize white boards must bring their own markers and not share common writing utensils.
- Group activity is often an important element of classroom instruction. While group activity can still occur, minimum six-foot physical distancing must be preserved to the greatest extent feasible.
- Instructor/student office hour meetings should take place remotely/virtually whenever possible.
- Dismiss the class in an organized manner that will allow for proper disinfecting of work spaces and with minimal congestion and crowding.

Student Safety Procedures

- Students must always follow the YSU Safety and Health Guidelines while on campus and attending class.
- Students must wear a face covering inside all buildings including classrooms and labs.
- Assigned seating is required to help contact tracing if a fellow classmate were to be exposed to COVID-19.
- Daily attendance will be performed by students using an electronic scanning method to determine which students are present for the class to help contact tracing fellow classmates.
- Students must wash their hands frequently in between classes and use hand sanitizer as needed.
- To limit chances of transmission, no eating allowed in the classrooms. Only drinks with sealable containers can be used in class (eg. water bottle with lid).
- Student should not congregate in classroom/hall-way areas between or during class.
- Class will be dismissed by the instructor in an organized manner.
- Students should submit assignments electronically as much as possible.
- Avoid lending/borrowing supplies from other students.
- If you must cough or sneeze be sure to cover your mouth even with a mask on, using your arm at the elbow joint.