



## COVID-19 POLICY ON MASKS, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS

*Issue Date:* August 30, 2021

*Supersedes:* None

*Last Review:* August 30, 2021

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the use of masks, personal protective equipment, and physical distancing while in New York Medical College ("NYMC") or Touro College of Dental Medicine ("TCDM") facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, visitors, and guests accessing the NYMC and TCDM campus other than NYMC student housing. This policy does not apply to NYMC student housing property. For policies applicable to NYMC student housing, please refer to <https://www.nymc.edu/current-students/student-services/housing--residential-life/policies-and-forms/>.

### III. DEFINITIONS

- a. Eye Protection: Goggles or a face shield. (Glasses do not constitute eye protection.)
- b. Face Mask: A surgical face mask or multi-layer cloth face mask that covers the nose and mouth.
- c. Fully-Vaccinated: Receipt of a complete series (if more than one dose is indicated for the vaccine) of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by FDA for either use or by Emergency Use Authorization, and at least two weeks have passed since the second dose in a two dose series, or at least two weeks following receipt of one dose of a single dose vaccine.
- d. PPE: Personal protective equipment used to prevent transmission of communicable diseases.
- e. Physical Distancing: Maintenance of at least 6 feet of space between persons to prevent transmission of respiratory infectious agents that can spread from person to person within that distance.

**IV. POLICY**

a. Face Masks are required to be worn as follows:

	<b>For Fully-Vaccinated individuals</b>	<b>For individuals who are <u>not</u> Fully-Vaccinated</b>
<b>Outdoors on the NYMC/TCDM campus</b>	Whenever Physical Distancing cannot be maintained.	At all times, regardless of Physical Distancing.
<b>Indoors on the NYMC/TCDM campus</b>	At all times other than: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. While eating or drinking in designated eating areas, provided that Physical Distancing is maintained.</li> <li>2. Inside an office or room while alone, provided the door is closed and one can quickly don a Face Mask when someone else enters the space</li> </ol>	At all times.  Persons who are not fully vaccinated are to make arrangements to eat in an area in which others are not present in the same room.

b. PPE is required in patient care settings, in accordance with the Infection Control guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This includes simulated patient care settings such as classes in which volunteers act as patients, the dental simulation lab, and the anatomy laboratory. In simulated patient care settings, PPE advised for patient encounters in general (vs. when COVID-19 is suspect) is required, including Eye Protection plus a surgical 2 -3 ply face mask. A cloth face mask can be worn only if it is over a surgical face mask.

c. Physical Distancing is required:

- i.** From anyone who is unmasked as permitted by this policy.
- ii.** For individuals who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
  - 1.** Students who need arrangements to maintain Physical Distancing should contact the course instructor/director or the program director.
  - 2.** Employees who need arrangements to maintain Physical Distancing should contact their supervisor or the Office of Human Resources.

- iii. As often as possible by immune suppressed persons and persons at high risk for complications of COVID-19.

Nothing in this policy prevents supervisory faculty and staff from requiring PPE for any activity on campus, as appropriate for the safety of activity participants. (eg in small group laboratory work).

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment, dismissal from an academic program, and/or prohibition of access to campus.

**V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This policy is effective immediately.

**VI. POLICY MANAGEMENT**

Executive Stakeholder:	Vice Chancellor for College Student Services
Oversight Office:	NYMC Health Services