



Boston College Office of Environmental Health and Safety

Face-covering Requirements for Teaching and Research Laboratories

According to Massachusetts and University regulations, people inside Boston College buildings are required to wear face coverings (masks) at all times, unless they are in their personal residence hall space or are in their private office. Therefore, everyone in a lab needs to wear a face covering.

What kind? It depends on what you are doing.

For classes, meetings, moving through hallways, going to the restroom, etc. you should be wearing a personal face covering, which you are responsible for providing. The University will not provide personal face coverings.

If you are working in a laboratory and are being exposed to hazardous materials (chemical or biological) that could contaminate your personal face covering, you should use a disposable mask provided by your department instead. This could be a KN95 respirator or a 3-ply procedure mask.



Figure 1. KN95 Respirator
1



Figure 2. 3-ply procedure
mask 1

To wear, look for the nose wire, which indicates the top; on the 3-ply mask the white side is the inside. When you shape the nose wire to fit your nose you get a better seal and are less likely to fog your safety (or personal) glasses.

Because of past and potentially future shortages of some PPE, we are being conservative in how we provide masks:

- Research Labs where hazardous materials are in use: 1 mask per worker per day
- Teaching labs when hazardous materials are in use: 1 mask per student per day
- Faculty and teaching assistants in labs: 1 mask per day

Because faculty and TAs may have to interact closely with students at times (less than 6' distance), face shields in addition to masks may offer slightly more protection.