We hope that this message finds you safe and healthy. As you probably know, the fall semester begins on August 30, and many students, along with many AEC employees, will be on campus.

In light of the increasing COVID-19 case transmission due to the Delta variant, the University has updated its face-covering policy for students, faculty, staff, and visitors (as more fully described in the attached guideline).

Beginning today, August 11, face-coverings will be required at all times in the event you or your employees need to visit U-M buildings, regardless of vaccination status. As a reminder, if you plan to come to the University, you must follow these current basic public health measures each time you visit campus to ensure your safety and the safety of the University community:

- Complete the ResponsiBlue screening check before entering U-M campuses.
- Follow contractor protocols when entering construction sites, and complete contractor screening checks even if you have already completed the ResponsiBlue screening.
- Wear face-coverings at all times when indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- Face coverings will continue to be required when using the U-M public transportation system but will not be required outdoors on campus.

Thank you for showing you care by following these measures to keep yourself and everyone healthy.

Marina Roelofs, Executive Director
Architecture, Engineering and Construction

Resources:  AEC COVID-19 Information
Campus Maize and BluePrint
University of Michigan Face Covering Policy for COVID-19

Effective August 11, 2021

Research shows that transmission of COVID-19 is greatly reduced, and lives are saved when all individuals wear face coverings while in public. Vaccination is also an effective tool to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the shared responsibility of the entire U-M community to protect not only their health but the health of those who are most vulnerable for serious illness and death from COVID-19. This policy is separate and distinct from the U-M COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. Please refer to that policy for more information about vaccination requirements at the university.

In light of increasing case transmission due to the Delta variant, the University is again requiring the use of face coverings by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, as more fully described below. The requirements of this policy will be in place for at least the first weeks of the fall semester to aid in protecting the U-M community from the spread of COVID-19, including the Delta variant.

Except as otherwise allowed by this policy, U-M requires all students, staff, faculty, and visitors to wear a face covering that covers the mouth and nose when indoors on U-M property (including the Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint campuses as well as U-M controlled properties off campus) and when on U-M buses. Certain units, such as University of Michigan – Health, may issue local level policies that supersede this policy and must be followed as applicable.

As exceptions to the above, instances where an individual is not required to wear a face covering indoors are when that individual is:

1. alone in a single enclosed private office with the door closed;
2. in their assigned residence hall or apartment including common areas; unvaccinated individuals should continue to mask in common areas;
3. actively eating or drinking;
4. under the age of 2 years old;
5. someone who is unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
6. required to wear assigned respiratory protection for the job tasks they are performing;
7. granted a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)¹;
8. swimming;
9. involved in an activity, including certain types of instruction, where wearing a face covering may be infeasible or present a safety hazard provided that a risk assessment is performed and reviewed by U-M EHS;
10. communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication (in such circumstances, alternatives such as clear face coverings and other accommodations must also be explored);
11. receiving a service for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service; or
12. asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes.

¹ For information on requesting such accommodations, please contact the Office for Institutional Equity.