

# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT ORDER OF CHANCELLOR THOMAS GIBSON

**DATE OF ORDER:** September 29, 2021  
Goes into effect Friday, October 1, 2021.

## UPDATED - CHANCELLOR'S ORDER ON MASK USE TO MINIMIZE SPREAD OF COVID-19

The more infectious Delta variant of COVID-19 has led to a significant increase in transmission rates across the country and in Wisconsin. Transmission rates in Portage, Marathon, Wood, Bayfield, and Lincoln counties are high where UW-Stevens Point is present. The virus continues to spread among unvaccinated people, which contributes to an uptick in cases among all ages. Breakthrough cases in our region are above the state average.

Based upon the foregoing, I, Thomas Gibson, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, order all students, employees and visitors to any UW-Stevens Point campus or facility to be required to wear face coverings when inside campus buildings. This order is being issued pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Wisconsin and applicable policies in the University of Wisconsin System, including but not limited to: Wis. Stats. ss. 36.11(1)(a) and (c), 36.09(1)(a), (f) and (L), 36.35(2) and 101.11; Wis. Admin. Code ss. UWS 18.11(6)(a) and (7)(e), UWS 18.08(9)(b), UWS 18.13, UWS 17.09(1), (14) and (15); and Regent Policy 23-2

**1. Face Coverings.** Face covering means a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. A face covering must be secured to the head with ties, ear loops or elastic bands that go behind the head and must fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face. Cloth face coverings must be made with two or more layers of breathable fabric that is tightly woven (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source). A face covering does not include bandanas, single layer neck gaiters, plexiglass barriers, face shields, goggles, scarves, ski masks, balaclavas shirt or sweater collars pulled up over the mouth and nose, or masks with slits, exhalation valves or punctures because public health experts have determined that these types of coverings are ineffective at preventing respiratory droplets from entering the air.

- a. Face Covering Required.** Every individual who enters campus lands shall wear a face covering:
- i. In all indoor public spaces except students in their assigned residence hall rooms and employees when alone in a private, unshared office or lab; and
  - ii. While riding in a campus bus or when two or more people are present in a university vehicle

**b. Exceptions.** Requests for exceptions to this order should be made to Human Resources (employees) or Disability and Assistive Technology Center (students) and will be evaluated on an individualized basis utilizing the interactive reasonable accommodations process.

**2. Severability.** If any provision of this order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this order are severable.

**3. Duration.** This Order shall become effective Friday, October 1, at 12:01 a.m. The order will expire October 31, 2021, unless extended, terminated, or otherwise modified based on changing conditions related the COVID-19 Delta (or other) variants, including but not limited to changes in CDC guidance, state and local public health conditions, and campus safety.”