











WEARING FACE MASKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN (does not apply to UMG)

(English translation provided for informational purposes. If the English and German versions allow different interpretations, the German version should be followed)

Face masks are also known as cloth or fabric face masks, face coverings, protective face masks, or in Germany, Mund-Nasen-Bedeckung/MNB (mouth and nose covering), Mund-Nasen-Schutz/MNS (mouth and nose protection) or “community masks”.

	 Disposable protective face mask (surgical, medical, triple-layer MNS)	 Filtering half-face mask without valve (FFP)	 UMG fabric masks*	 Home-made masks from fabric
 Medical device	✓	✓	✗	✗
 Usage	In everyday clinical use**	Part of the protective equipment when treating COVID-19 patients**	In the Uni	In the Uni
 Protection for wearers	(✓)	✓	(✓)	(✓)
 Protection for surroundings	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Duration of use	Change when the mask is damp		Change when the mask is damp	Reusable depending on material Wash at 60°C after each use including when using additional “filters” such as coffee filters.
 Attention!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never overlook other hygiene and protective measures - keep a minimum distance of 1.5m - follow the 5 rules of hand-washing - cough and sneeze into your elbow - keep your distance even during mealtimes and breaks 			

*or similar bought items or hand-made products. These are items which are not intended to be used as medical devices and are not subject to certification

** these products are intended for everyday clinical use and the treatment of Covid-19 patients

As per the general health and hygiene rules (HYGIENEKONZEPT) of the University (see Coronavirus information page), everyone is obliged to wear a face mask in all University buildings until they reach their place of work, seat, etc. whatever route they choose to reach their destination, whether via stairs, lifts, toilets, photocopy rooms, etc. In lecture halls and seminar rooms, the obligation to wear a face mask applies until sitting in the seat, but continues to apply even when sitting if the minimum distance of 1.5m between people cannot be ensured. In lecture halls and seminar rooms, it is in any case recommended to wear a face mask.

English translation of the following document:

Regelungen im reduzierten Präsenz-Betrieb der Universität während der Corona-Pandemie

Tragen von Mund-Nasen-Bedeckung an der Universität Göttingen (außer UMG) | Stand: 2.0 (3.11.2020)

At individual workstations, whether or not to continue wearing a face mask is decided by the appropriate institution on the basis of the risk assessment and the general health and hygiene rules.

The University, as an employer and represented in this context by the heads of the institutions, is obliged to make face masks available to employees for the duration of their time at work. Please contact your supervisor(s) about this. It is permitted to wear your own face mask.

The face mask is not required to provide specialist features such as respiratory resistance. The only criterion is for a textile or textile-like barrier covering the mouth and nose. Reusable face masks must be washable at 60°.

Face masks can be procured through the standard ordering channels available at the University.



UMG fabric masks and homemade masks are primarily used to protect others in case you are carrying the coronavirus. If everyone is wearing a face mask, everyone is protected. For your own protection, please continue to observe the hygiene and distancing rules (at least 1.5m distance, washing your hands properly, frequent ventilation of rooms, following guidelines for sneezing and coughing).

Tips for the use of fabric masks

- The mask can be reused if it is not wet. It should be changed or washed daily.
- For extended periods of wear, the use of several face masks may be necessary as the face mask should be changed as soon as it is damp.
- The mask should be put on or taken off in such a way to prevent contamination of both the mask and the face - it is best to touch nothing except the elastic at the sides
- after taking off the mask, it should be kept dry in the air (not in closed containers!) and stored temporarily if it is to be reused afterwards

- please make sure that you alone use "your" mask and that there is no mixing up with other people's masks
- You have the option of washing the face mask yourself at home. Please wash them at 60°C. Other ways of disinfecting your mask (eg in an oven or microwave) are NOT recommended.

Wearing face masks and other face coverings is stressful, unfamiliar, uncomfortable and annoying. However, as shown by the experience of surgeons and others, there are no known serious health problems caused by wearing face masks over a long period of time.

The single-use, protective face masks (MNS) are CE-certified medical devices and are tested and proven for use in a medical setting. Such equipment could run out and MNS may become scarce again depending on the development of the pandemic. The type of face mask and duration of wear should be taken account via a risk assessment: see the Safety/Environment Section's page.

Plastic visors can be used in addition to protective face masks, but under no circumstances can they replace them.

Employees who cannot reasonably be expected to wear a face mask due to a physical, mental or psychological difference, and who provide a medical certificate confirming this, are exempt from the obligation to wear one. In these circumstances, the protection plan for the area must be adapted on the basis of a risk assessment. For advice, please contact the Betriebsärztlicher Dienst (occupational health).

Tips for the use of FFP2 masks

FFP2 masks ("filtering facepiece" masks) are CE-certified personal protective equipment and protect the wearer. To ensure the protection of other people as well, only FFP2 masks without an exhalation valve should be used. FFP2 masks should only be used in exceptional cases. For advice, please contact the Safety/Environment Section and/or Betriebsärztlicher Dienst (occupational health).

PLEASE ALSO PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE HYGIENE AND DISTANCING RULES, EVEN WHEN WEARING A FACE MASK!