

## **Facemask Accommodation Policy**

The Accessibility Resource Office believes in maintaining the integrity of the educational experience for its students who are unable to engage fully in educational programs and/or services as originally designed due to Jefferson College's facemask policy. Safety measures such as social distancing, stay at home orders, and the wearing of face masks or cloth face coverings have become necessary to ensure comfort and safety for all campus participants.

Given current CDC guidelines and the continued public health concerns associated with COVID-19, The ARO acknowledges the need for accommodation requests to the college's mask mandate.

Accommodation requests can be made by contacting Accessibility Resource Office at (636) 481-3158 or [aro@jeffco.edu](mailto:aro@jeffco.edu).

### **Examples of reasonable modifications to the face mask policy\***

- The wearing of a scarf, loose face covering, or full face shield instead of a face mask;
- Alternate course requirements and assignments.
- Remote Learning Options
- Online Testing Options
- Online Faculty Office Hours
- Online Tutoring
- Extended Course Deadlines
- Assigning of Note Taker
- Online or Mailed Project & Homework Submissions

### **Required Documentation**

As with all accommodation requests, students must provide appropriate documentation outlining the necessity of academic accommodations and their link to COVID-19. This documentation would need to be on physician's letterhead and **signed** by a licensed medical professional who is not related to the student.

All documentation must provide the following information:

- Date of evaluation.
- Specific Diagnosis or Concern related to inability to wear a facemask.
- Specific limitation with respect to the current impact on the student's educational success.

Determinations regarding reasonable accommodation requests are made by the Accessibility Resource Office Coordinator and may include "alternate accommodations" (which are equally appropriate accommodations) based on reasonableness of requested accommodations.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Students requesting accommodations for the facemask policy are required to:

- Identify and comply with the ARO policies and procedures regarding disability accommodations.
- Access necessary technology and equipment to complete coursework.
- Discuss alternative options to assignments and due dates prior to deadlines.
- Communicate with instructors and faculty frequently and thoroughly.
- Make all necessary arrangements with the JC Testing Center for remote exams; when necessary.
- Uphold Academic Integrity standards.

**It is the policy of Jefferson College that no person shall, on the basis of age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or veteran status, be subject to discrimination in employment or in admission to any educational program or activity of the College.**

\*including but not limited to: