

**University Update Regarding COVID-19  
Face Covering or Mask Required on Campus****April 17, 2020****To: The La Roche University Community**

For the health and safety of our community, all employees, students and visitors must wear a mask or face covering while on campus, effective immediately. Governor Tom Wolf has issued a state order requiring all life-sustaining businesses that are still operating in Pennsylvania to require all employees to wear masks while at the work site. Additionally the order states that employers must enforce customers, or students and visitors, to wear a mask while on the premises or deny them entry. The state recommends people wear cloth face coverings or make their own masks in an effort to save medical masks for health care workers and first responders.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends individuals wear face coverings in public, in addition to observing physical distancing measures, to help stem the spread of COVID-19. According to the CDC, recent studies have shown that a significant portion of individuals who have COVID-19 lack symptoms, and even those who later develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before their symptoms appear. This means the virus can spread between people in close proximity even if they are not showing symptoms at the time.

A cloth face covering can reduce the risk of transmission in these situations, but **does not negate the need for physical distancing**. Cloth face coverings can include a scarf that you already own, or can easily be made with or without sewing. Information regarding how to make, use and care for cloth face coverings can be found on the CDC's [website](#).