



Office of
**PROCUREMENT AND
BUSINESS SERVICES**
Clemson® University

January 7, 2022

RE: Mask Update

Once again, masks have become a hot topic as variants change and folks return to campus. After much discussion on this topic over the past week, the following is current guidance for Clemson.

- 1) Facilities will continue supplying classrooms, and other student areas as needed, with the disposable medical/surgical masks we've been doing since last semester. These masks are more than appropriate to meet face-covering guidance from the CDC.
- 2) Clemson is purchasing a supply of KN95 masks and plan to provide those for use for Isolation and Quarantine students and for faculty that want them for their use in classrooms.
- 3) There is no plan to buy KN95 masks for the general population. As we have done for the past year or more, we continue to ask individuals (students and employees) to continue to be responsible for providing their own masks following CDC guidance. Because guidance is changing and there currently is no guidance that everyone MUST have a KN95 type mask, we are not requiring that on campus. Individuals can buy what they need. There are many options out there readily available in small quantities for individual needs.
- 4) We would also like to remind campus that Clemson continues to recommend that areas NOT try to purchase and supply masks for their employees. This guidance has not changed over the past year. Should a department choose to do so, these purchases will NOT be reimbursed from central University COVID funds, and departments should ensure they are buying legit, reputable KN95s. There are many fake and not legit masks being sold.
- 5) N95 masks - Only those individuals and areas that are part of the University Respiratory Protection program that have been properly fit by OES for N95s are authorized to purchase N95 respirators using University funds. Many areas are attempting to buy N95s masks for their areas because they believe this is the "safest" option, but it is in fact only safe if properly fit tested and approved for an individual. Unless in the OES program, do NOT purchase N95 masks for folks regardless of fund source.