What can I do to encourage students to wear face coverings in class, if mandated by the campus?

When face coverings are required campus-wide, you may want to start your classes with a reminder about the latest guidance. It could be a verbal reminder and/or a note on the whiteboard or a slide at the beginning of your presentation. You may also want to add to your syllabus that “students must adhere to the current campus directives related to COVID-19 and refusal to do so may result in the student being asked to leave.”

When required campus-wide, face coverings should be always kept on, excepting brief moments to drink. Eating in class is prohibited when face coverings are required.

What if a student isn’t wearing a face covering in class when face coverings are required by the campus?

Students have generally been compliant with campus requirements. In many cases, if a student isn’t wearing a face covering it is simply because they forgot to put one on. For students who forget their face covering at home, you may want to have extras on hand. Instructors are welcome to pick up a free box of disposable surgical masks for your classroom or office hours by emailing Environmental Health and Safety at safety@uci.edu and arrange for a pickup of these masks. Backup reusable cloth face coverings are also available at various places around campus.

What if a student refuses to wear a campus-required face covering in class?

Students must adhere to any face covering requirements in effect in the same way that they must conform to elements of the Code of Student Conduct or other campus policies. If a student shows up to class or office hours without a face covering while campus guidance requires them, you may remind the student of the requirement and ask them to put on their face covering. If the student refuses to put one on, you may ask the student to leave, just as you would ask a student who is being disruptive to either cease their disruptive behavior or leave. If you cannot control the situation yourself, you may end class early for the well-being of all. Please report incidents to the Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct (OAISC). OAISC will need the students’ name, SID and other relevant information submitted via the online report form.

If a student has a disability accommodation to attend class without a mask, you would be notified in advance by the Disability Services Center. You should know that this is an unlikely scenario since other options would be considered such as remote instruction. For any questions regarding disability accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Center.
You should not call UCIPD to report failure to wear a face covering. UCIPD is not charged with enforcement of face covering requirements and failure to wear a face covering is not a police emergency.