Our COVID-19 Response

Along with Goshen College, Merry Lea is committed to the safety and well-being of its employees, students and visitors. We are following the recommendations of public health officials surrounding COVID-19 as outlined in the following:

Learning Center is Open
Our Learning Center displays and restrooms are currently open for public use. When entering the Learning Center, please follow our guidelines regarding face masks, physical distancing and rigorous handwashing.

Trails are Open
Our 8 miles of hiking trails remain free and open to the public every day, sunrise to sunset. You can find a trail map here: https://www.goshen.edu/merrylea/visitor-information/ or in the box at the trailhead boards. When encountering other hikers, please follow our guidelines regarding face masks and physical distancing listed below.

Physical Distancing Guidelines
Please maintain a length of a turkey vulture’s wingspan (or a 6-foot radius) between yourself and other people, indoors or outdoors. If you encounter other hikers on the trails, you may step slightly off the trail to allow 6 feet of distance. If you are unable to step aside, please use a face mask until that person has passed.

Face Masks Required
In response to recent federal and state guidance regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Goshen College and Merry Lea require that all employees, students, contractors and visitors wear a face mask/covering in order to protect others and the public’s health. It must be worn when inside our buildings or when encountering people within a 6-foot radius of yourself, indoors or outdoors.

Based upon current scientific evidence, the use of face masks/coverings is most effective when everyone participates. In combination with handwashing, physical distancing and self-screening for symptoms of possible illness, face masks reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We wear because we care. Together we can help protect each other.

Need a Face Mask?
If you need a face mask, we have a limited supply to temporarily offer visitors at the front desk of the Learning Center. Please use hand sanitizer after you enter the door and ask for a face mask 6 feet away from the front desk.

We thank you for your support and understanding in these unprecedented times as our team assesses best practices and protocols to ensure the health and safety of all our community. Please reach out with any questions at merrylea@goshen.edu.

This policy will remain in effect until further notice, or until health guidance supports modification.