

Provostial Directive on Masks in Instructional Spaces

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Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to ensure reasonable actions are taken to mitigate risks to the University community by slowing the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

Scope

This Directive applies to Brock University faculty, staff, students, and visitors (“Individuals”) who attend an indoor space on Brock campus or on any premises leased, licensed, or occupied by Brock University where instruction associated with the delivery of for-credit academic programs is taking place (“Instructional Space”).

For clarity, this Directive does not apply when classrooms, lecture halls, laboratories, seminar rooms, study rooms, offices, and any other premises are being used for non-instructional purposes.

The use of personal protective equipment including face masks in research laboratories and other research spaces is governed by applicable policies and procedures as set out by the Vice-President, Research or Research Ethics Boards.

Face mask requirement

All Individuals who attend an indoor Instructional Space shall wear a medical-grade face mask at a minimum, unless subject to an exemption.

Instructors (i.e., faculty members, librarians, course lecturers, teaching assistants, lab demonstrators, or others engaged in leading the instruction of students) shall wear a face mask at all times in an indoor Instructional Space even where physical distancing is possible, unless subject to an exemption.

The use of a face mask is strongly recommended in all other indoor areas on campus where physical distancing is not possible and in University vehicles when there is more than one occupant.

Exemptions

The requirement to wear a face mask while attending an indoor instructional area does not extend to:

- a. children under 5 years of age;
- b. an Individual who is unable to wear a face mask because of a medical condition;
- c. an Individual who is unable to put on or remove a face covering without assistance;
- d. an Individual who is being accommodated in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 or the Human Rights Code;
- e. an Individual who is performing or rehearsing in a film or television production or in a concert, artistic event, theatrical performance, or other performance where it is not possible or practical to wear a face mask;
- f. an Individual who needs to temporarily remove their face mask while in the indoor area to drink, or
- g. circumstances where Brock's Health, Safety, and Wellness unit has determined that an exemption is necessary for the purposes of health and safety.

In limited circumstances, the Provost will also adjudicate requests for exemptions to the mandate grounded in pedagogical reasons if said request is initiated by the instructor and has the support of the Dean. In such cases, exemptions will only be granted for those activities where the removal of masks is required to reach the pedagogical aims of the course, with the understanding that masks will continue to be worn by all involved at other times in the classroom.

Members of the Brock community are asked to remain respectful and understanding of those who are unable to wear a face mask.

Duration

This Directive will be reviewed regularly and is subject to change as warranted by new public health guidance, legal requirements, or changing public health conditions.

Authority

This Directive is being issued by the Provost and Vice-President, Academic as a health and safety measure under the University's Occupational Health and Safety Policy. The Provost and Vice-President, Academic is responsible for overseeing the implementation, administration, and interpretation of this Directive.