



COVID-19 Safety Plan: Physics and Astronomy

Amendment Re: Non-medical masks and Self-Assessment Requirements

1. Use of masks in Physics and Astronomy buildings

As part of UBC's commitment to the health and safety of our community, and the responsibility we all share in preventing the spread of COVID-19, students, faculty, staff and visitors are required to follow UBC's COVID-19 Campus Rules when on our campuses. These rules include the requirement to wear non-medical masks in common indoor spaces.

Common indoor spaces include hallways, stairways, building entryways, classrooms, washrooms, atria and other high-traffic areas.

The requirement to wear non-medical masks indoors recognizes that transmission is reduced when face masks are worn in conjunction with physical distancing and other safety practices. Note that wearing a mask does not replace physical distancing – physical distancing is the most effective method to reduce transmission and must continue to be followed.

As per UBC COVID-19 rules, all persons must wear an appropriate mask when inside Physics and Astronomy buildings, except for the following (for a full list of exceptions, [please see the Faculty of Science document](#)):

1. *Sole occupants of an enclosed room (e.g., a faculty office)*
2. *Persons with a medical condition, including breathing or cognitive difficulties, or a disability, that prevents them from wearing a mask or renders them unable to put on or remove a mask without assistance;*
3. *Where communication with a person requires a person to be able to see the speaker's mouth;*
4. *UBC faculty or staff or other persons assisting with a health or safety emergency;*
5. *Personnel in an enclosed research lab where physical distancing can be maintained under an existing safety plan (e.g., PI safety plan);*
6. *Personnel conducting research or activities where their mask could pose a safety hazard, such as where it creates a fire hazard or where it may accumulate volatile organic contaminants;*
7. *Personnel wearing personal protective equipment offering more protection than a mask, or working in a situation where safety rules preclude wearing a non-medical mask, provided they meet physical distancing requirements and are in compliance with an approved UBC safety plan*



Non-medical masks made of cloth require regular cleaning. For additional information about non-medical masks, including washing/cleaning protocols and other considerations and exceptions, see the UBC SRS site: <https://srs.ubc.ca/covid-19/health-safety-covid-19/non-medical-masks/>

2. Self-assessment for symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival to workplace or class:

According to the new regulations from WorkSafeBC, faculty, staff, contractors and students who are on campus are now required to directly confirm to a supervisor (or designate) that they have completed a daily self-assessment for symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival at their workplace or class. To that end, all PHAS members will follow the following self-assessment reporting protocol (those department members with offices or labs in AMPEL/QMI have their own local reporting protocol):

1. *All members of the department are still encouraged to continue to work remotely whenever possible.*
2. *Any person planning to visit UBC campus must complete COVID-19 self-assessment using the BC self-assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/>. The self-assessment must be completed before arriving on campus.*
3. *Any person visiting UBC campus must confirm the completion of self-assessment by sending an empty email with a subject line "COVID-19 Self-assessment Completed" to the designated person as described below. The email must be sent prior to arriving on campus. In the case that multiple visits per day are necessary, a single email sent before the initial visit on that day will suffice.*
4. *Students arriving to campus for research or in-person classes will send the self-assessment email to their research supervisor or teaching faculty, respectively. These emails will be collected and kept by that faculty member.*
5. *Staff members arriving to campus will send the self-assessment email to the manager of their respective unit. The manager will collect and keep the emails.*
6. *Faculty and unit managers arriving to campus for research or teaching purposes will send the self-assessment email to Derek Gagnier, who will keep those emails. Please indicate this is a COVID self-assessment in the subject line.*

3. Updating COVID-19 Safety Plans

All safety plans from research groups and work units should be amended with the following statement: "New WorkSafeBC requirements for self-assessment will be followed in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Amendment to PHAS Safety Plan" (this document). The reporting protocol outlined above must then be brought to the attention of and reviewed with every member of the corresponding group.