

York University Mask Protocol

May 2022



York University's Mask Protocol

All Persons are required to wear a face mask in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin when entering and for the duration of their stay in indoor spaces on York University property, unless an exemption applies.

York's Mask Protocol aligns with the [Public Health Agency of Canada's](#) and [Toronto Public Health's](#) continued strong recommendation for all to wear a well-fitting, high quality mask, especially in indoor public settings.

If there are individuals who are not wearing masks due to exemptions, it is encouraged to maintain physical distance where possible.

Masks are not a substitute for personal protective equipment (PPE). Questions about masks and/or PPE may be directed to their reporting manager, supervisor or member of the Dean's/Principal's Office, Student Accessibility Services at sasreg@yorku.ca, the Office of Student Community Relations ([OSCR](#)), or Health, Safety and Employee Well-Being ([HSEWB](#)).

This Protocol should not be interpreted in a way that conflicts with or replaces existing requirements or obligations under the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) or other applicable statutes and regulations.

Where Does this Protocol Apply?

This Protocol applies to all those who are present in indoor spaces on university property at any time and for any purposes including, but not limited to employees, students, contractors, volunteers, and visitors.

Indoor university spaces include lobbies, elevators, hallways and corridors, stairwells, washrooms, service desks, cafeterias and lunchrooms, common areas in residences, study lounges, meeting rooms, classrooms, research and teaching labs, shared or open-space offices, and other locations used in common, particularly where practicing physical distancing may be difficult or unpredictable.

Exemptions

There are exemptions from the requirement to wear a mask. Some of the exemptions relevant to the University community include:

- Children who are under two years of age;
- Persons with an underlying medical condition that inhibits their ability to wear a mask

- Persons who are unable to place or remove a mask without assistance;
- Persons who are being accommodated under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, or persons who require accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code that preclude the wearing of a mask; and
- York University departments and faculties may have specific practices that fall under provincial guidelines and/or operational requirements. For any questions, please contact [HSEWB](#).

York University community members are not required to provide proof of any of the exemptions identified above. We ask that community members exercise discretion and patience should they observe a fellow community member not wearing a mask. If concerned, questions may be directed to one's reporting manager, supervisor or member of the Dean's/Principal's Office, Student Accessibility Services at sasreg@yorku.ca, or Health, Safety and Employee Well-Being ([HSEWB](#)). Additional information may be found on [YU Better Together Community of Care Commitment page](#).

If a student believes that they have a medical reason to be exempt from York's mandatory mask protocol, they must engage [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) to review and confirm the request for a formal exemption so that further applicable health and safety precautions can be implemented.

Masks may be temporarily removed while in an indoor area, in the following circumstances and only when public health guidance permits:

- To receive services that require the removal of a mask;
- While actively consuming food or drink in designated areas for meals as determined by the area or as needed to take medication. Where possible, it is encouraged to maintain 2-metres physical distancing when masks are removed.
- When individuals are alone in a secured and enclosed space such as a private office, their mask may be temporarily removed while the door is closed (e.g., to drink or eat). If the door is open or someone enters the room, the mask must be donned.
- Eating and drinking in instructional spaces are not permitted unless under for urgent health reasons (e.g., to take a sip of water or to ingest a small amount of food for urgent health purposes such as low blood sugar or to take medication).
- To engage in an athletic or fitness activity;

- when performing or rehearsing in a film or television production or in a concert, artistic event, theatrical performance or other performance as approved by the University; and
- As may be necessary for the purposes of health and safety.

Signs have been posted at entrances to all buildings reminding community members of the need to wear masks while indoors. For more information, please refer to the [Mask FAQs \(Frequently Asked Questions\)](#) on the [Better Together](#) website.

References:

- [YU Better Together](#)
- [Toronto Public Health: COVID-19 Guidance: Post-Secondary Schools](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada [COVID-19 mask use: Advice for Community Settings](#)
- [Toronto Public Health: Use of Face Masks Fact Sheet](#)