



MASK MANDATE

The University of Winnipeg is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for all. To reduce the risk of infection from and spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses, the University of Winnipeg is requiring that everyone wear a facemask when indoors in University spaces, effective August 7, 2021 until further notice. Everyone is encouraged to have their own facemasks; however, the University will provide 3-ply masks (free of charge) to individuals who do not have one. Masks will be available at designated access points on campus.

This mask mandate applies to all students, staff, faculty, contractors, and visitors. Exemptions will be made for children under the age of five (5) years old and individuals who require a medical accommodation. To request a reasonable accommodation, **employees** should contact the University's Employee Health and Wellness Specialist, Linda Harrison at li.harrison@uwinnipeg.ca. **Students** should contact Accessibility Services at accessibility@uwinnipeg.ca. Individuals requesting accommodation must complete the [Face Covering Exemption Form](#) and provide medical documentation.

Facemasks must be at least two-layers thick (three layers is preferable) and must fit securely and comfortably, covering the nose, mouth, and chin. Scarves, bandanas, neck gaiters, and one-way filter valve masks are not acceptable face coverings. Cloth masks should be washed and fully dried after one-day's wear. This is the responsibility of the individual.

Facemasks must be worn when in the presence of others and in common indoor areas and shared spaces. This includes (but is not limited to) hallways, classrooms, laboratories, meeting rooms, lobbies, washrooms, parking garages, stairways, elevators, common spaces in residence, University vehicles, locker rooms, the gym, the library, study spaces, and the cafeterias. Facemasks may be removed in the following circumstances:

- When one is the sole occupant in an individual office;
- When an individual is seated and eating or drinking;
- When an instructor is teaching, provided they maintain a 2-metre distance from their students. Instructors must secure their mask prior to and immediately after the lecture;
- With permission by their instructor, a student may remove their mask to facilitate brief verbal communication (5 minutes or less);
- During physical activity in the recreation and fitness facilities, including participation in sporting events. Masks must be worn immediately before and after physical activities/ sporting events and when moving through the recreation and fitness facilities. National and provincial sport organization masking rules will apply to the field of play, subject to University approval;
- As outlined in the Collegiate Restoring Safe Schools Return to School Plan; and
- Other circumstances as may be approved by the University.



To make a request for University approval of other specific circumstances where masks may be permitted to be removed, please contact the UWinnipeg Safety Office at Safety@uwinnipeg.ca.

Wearing a facemask does not replace the need for proper hand hygiene and staying home when feeling unwell or when experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms. These actions help prevent the spread of all viruses. These actions will also reduce the likelihood that the University will need to restrict in-person activities again.

Please be kind and exercise discretion if you see someone not wearing a mask as there may be a reason why they cannot wear one. Gently remind people that masks are mandatory. Please contact the UWinnipeg Safety Office at Safety@uwinnipeg.ca if you are concerned.

Individuals (without an exemption) who violate this mandate will be offered a facemask. If they refuse to wear one, they will be required to leave campus and UWinnipeg Safety Office personnel will contact UW Security to escort them off campus.

There is signage on the proper use of and how to safely put on and take off facemasks posted in visible areas on campus. Individuals are also encouraged to watch the following [video](#).

Individuals with questions about this mandate should contact the UWinnipeg Safety Office at Safety@uwinnipeg.ca.