Use of Non-Medical Face Masks

- Wearing a non-medical face mask can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 especially when physical distancing is not possible. By wearing face masks we can protect ourselves and others by reducing the spread of droplets. Masks can be effective in preventing spread even when someone has no symptoms. While non-medical masks can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, medical masks and respirators provide better protection.
- In accordance with the current Public Health order, Memorial requires wearing non-medical face masks that cover the nose and mouth while in public indoor spaces and common areas at Memorial.
- Exemptions for mask wearing are provided for: children under the age of five; people with physical or mental health conditions; during treatments, services or physical activity; when showing identification; or when seated and actively eating or drinking provided physical distancing of two metres can be maintained.
- At Memorial, if the requirements are met for an exemption, an accommodation will be given.
- A two-ply face mask is the minimum standard while three-ply is recommended.
- Face shields do not replace a mask but can be worn with a mask and may be an option for those with communication issues; masks with exhalation valves should not be worn, and neck gaiters, scarves and bandannas are not recommended.
- At Memorial, students and staff are required to wear masks at all times including when seated in classrooms unless there are exemptions eg. when actively eating or drinking, communication issues, etc.
- In wet laboratories at Memorial, disposable non-medical face masks will be worn to ensure there is no contamination outside of the lab setting.
- A person in breach of a Public Health order could face a fine of $500-$2500, or jail time up to six month, or both a fine and jail time. The RNC and RCMP have the authority to issue offence tickets.
- To seek an accommodation for mask wearing on campus, students can contact The Blundon Centre; employees should contact Human Resources or Faculty Relations.

Overview

During the COVID-19 pandemic, protective measures continually change. We understand these are challenging and unprecedented times not only at Memorial, but around the world. We encourage following public health guidelines as well as Memorial's processes to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Contact us
Environmental Health and Safety
Office of the Chief Risk Officer
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If you have questions please email: health.safety@mun.ca