

COVID-19 Health and Safety Moment Non-Medical Face Masks



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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.

Use of Non-Medical Face Masks

- Wearing a face covering 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.
- 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. To seek an accommodation for mask wearing on campus, students can contact The Blundon Centre; employees should contact Human Resources or Faculty Relations.
- A three-ply face mask is the minimum standard while surgical masks or N95 respirators may be worn for increased protection. The only time a person should remove a face mask is when in an office alone or when actively eating or drinking in designated areas.
- 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.
- In classrooms at Memorial students and faculty are required to wear masks at all times unless there are exemptions eg. communication issues or when teaching and able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others. Masks cannot be lowered in these rooms for drinking or eating. Drinking and eating must be done outside the teaching and learning environment in designated areas.
- In wet laboratories at Memorial, disposable 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.

Contact us

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