

# McMaster University COVID-19 Awareness



# McMaster's Commitment

The University is committed to provide and maintain healthy and safe working and learning environments for all workers, students, volunteers and visitors. This is achieved by observing best practices which meet or exceed the standards to comply with legislative requirements. Our worker's commitment to the University community is integral to the success of the institution. **McMaster continues to take every reasonable precaution to ensure the health and safety of the campus community.**

McMaster is grateful to the faculty, staff and students who have continued to work and learn safely by following Public Health and McMaster COVID-19 guidelines. Your dedication and sacrifices have allowed us to return to full services with hopefulness and optimism. We couldn't be prouder of our community. Thank you McMaster.



Thank you!

# Mac and COVID-19

# Personal Safety Starts with You

McMaster is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for people to work and learn. The McMaster community must also do their part, both on and off campus, to stay safe and keep each other safe.

- ✓ As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 all new hires to the University will still be required to be fully vaccinated but vaccination requirements for students, visitors, volunteers and contractors will be paused.
- ✓ McMaster encourages all Faculty, staff, students and visitors to be vaccinated if attending campus and obtain booster shots as recommended by Health Canada.
- ✓ Stay home if feeling unwell.
- ✓ Wearing a face covering or mask indoors is strongly encouraged.
- ✓ Practice personal hygiene – wash hands regularly, cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- ✓ Follow McMaster University and Public Health guidelines.

# Benefits of Vaccination

- Reduces the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19.
- COVID-19 infection after vaccination will be less severe.
- Vaccination helps achieve community immunity within our population.
- It is your best defense to protect yourself and your contacts.
- Your decision to be vaccinated might stop COVID-19 from reaching someone who won't survive it.

# What to Expect When Coming to Campus



# What to Expect on Campus

## Outdoor spaces

- Increased outdoor seating for gatherings, lunches/breaks, meetings
- Benches, cabanas, Adirondack chairs installed throughout campus

## Indoor spaces

- Signage to highlight measures to protect against COVID-19
- Hand sanitizer stations at entrances and throughout buildings
- Continued preventative maintenance of ventilation systems, improved filtration in buildings, utilizing 100% outside air where possible
- Bottle filling stations available throughout campus – bring your bottle!





# Enjoy Outside Spaces



# Offices/Administrative Areas

## Faculty and staff may notice:

- Reorganizing of office layouts, your office space may look different.
- Staggering of workdays/hours as areas shift to flex hours and hybrid work arrangements
- Use of kitchenettes and lounge spaces for eating and drinking are available
- The continuation of virtual meetings and hybrid meetings as part of flexible working strategies

# Classrooms and Common Areas

## Students will notice:

- Masking is strongly encouraged, individual preferences to wear a mask is respected.
- Hand sanitizer stations available in building entrances.
- Sanitizing wipes safe for hands and cleaning surfaces available for students' usage in some areas.
- Touchless drinking fountains available for filling water bottles.  
Bring your water bottles!
- Many food services locations are open. You'll see new options and healthy choices.

# Reminder: Best Practices - COVID-19

The best practices for **COVID-19** prevention include;

- Vaccination including booster doses.
- Continued masking is strongly encouraged and physical distancing where possible.
- Staying home when feeling unwell.
- Hand hygiene (washing hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer).
- Respiratory Etiquette (coughing into elbow or tissue).
- Continue to follow Public Health and McMaster COVID-19 guidelines.



# Face Coverings – Follow Public Health & McMaster Requirements

- The requirement to be masked indoors has been paused as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, however masking indoors continues to be strongly encouraged, particularly in high density or busy indoor areas.
- Wearing masks indoors will provide an added layer of protection and will help to reduce risk of infection as well as spread throughout the McMaster community.
- Individuals can reduce their risk by also continuing to mask outside of the workplace especially in high occupancy or high-risk areas.
- Level 3 surgical masks will continue to be provided by the University at no cost to individuals who wish to wear one.
- Face coverings do not replace the need for other health and safety measures. We respect everyone's individual choice to wear or not wear a mask.

# Facility Services - Enhanced Cleaning

- ✓ Enhanced cleaning will continue in shared, common indoor spaces.
- ✓ Cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces like door handles, light switches, railings, door push bars.
- ✓ Disinfecting of classrooms using disinfecting sprayers will be conducted.
- ✓ Hand sanitizers will be present in common locations.



# Screening

- Active screening through MacCheck is no longer required, although active screening may still be required in specific FHS locations.
- MacCheck will continue to be available for those who are required to use it as part of their screening processes.
- All individuals are required to self- screen prior to attending any on site location using the Provincial COVID-19 self-assessment tool

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

# Faculty and Staff – Cleaning Responsibility

**Disinfecting High Touch Surfaces** is a shared responsibility and should be done at the beginning and end of the workday / shift.

**Regularly disinfect the following items:**

- Electronics
- Door handles
- Desk surface
- Light switches
- Furniture / equipment

**For additional cleaning requests contact  
McMaster Facility Services**

<https://facilities.mcmaster.ca/>



# Continue with Hand Hygiene

Washing or disinfecting hands frequently continues to be a vital prevention method in stopping the spread of COVID-19 as well as other communicable illnesses and diseases like influenza and the common cold.



# Ventilation

Facility Services has been working diligently and following recommended ventilation guidelines (ASHRAE) throughout the pandemic in order to optimize efficiencies and operations to provide enhanced building safety without negatively impacting comfort levels.

- ✓ 100% outside supply air where systems allow
- ✓ Upgraded filtration to MERV13
- ✓ Increased preventative maintenance
- ✓ Increased filter changes
- ✓ Verification and system checks of all main fan systems
- ✓ 24/7 supply fan operations, no on/off schedules



# COVID-19 Positive Case Reporting

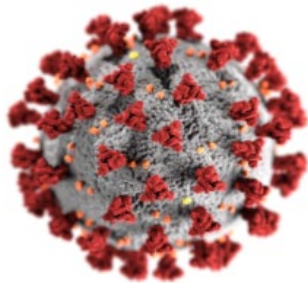
McMaster staff and faculty members are required to report positive COVID-19 cases, as confirmed through a Rapid Antigen or PCR test, through the Mosaic COVID-19 reporting tool.

Students are no longer required to report cases. Learners in health profession programs should check with their program offices for instructions on reporting to placement locations.



# COVID-19 Off-Site Locations

For those at off-site locations, please follow host-site protocols and contact your site administrator for specific information related to those protocols at your site.



**COVID - 19  
INFORMATION**

# COVID-19 Employee Support Strategies



## Resilience Toolkit

<https://hr.mcmaster.ca/resilience-toolkit/>

## Mental Health Supports

[https://hr.mcmaster.ca/employees/health\\_safety\\_well-being/my-health/mental-health-resources-and-training/psychological-well-being-during-covid-19/](https://hr.mcmaster.ca/employees/health_safety_well-being/my-health/mental-health-resources-and-training/psychological-well-being-during-covid-19/)

## Homewood Health COVID-19 Toolkit for Employees

[https://hr.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2020/04/Employee\\_COVID19PandemicToolkit\\_EN\\_April8\\_20.pdf](https://hr.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2020/04/Employee_COVID19PandemicToolkit_EN_April8_20.pdf)

## Homewood Health COVID-19 Toolkit for Managers

[https://hr.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2020/04/Manager\\_COVID19PandemicToolkit\\_EN\\_April8\\_20.pdf](https://hr.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2020/04/Manager_COVID19PandemicToolkit_EN_April8_20.pdf)

## Wellness Together Canada

<https://ca.portal.gs/>

# Student Resources and Supports

- **Student Wellness Centre**

<https://wellness.mcmaster.ca/>

- **Mental Health and Wellness**

<https://wellness.mcmaster.ca/services/counselling/>

<https://wellness.mcmaster.ca/>

- **Archway Mentorship Program**

<https://archway.mcmaster.ca/>

- **Mac101 Intro to University Life**

<https://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/events/orientation/>

**For more student resources visit:**

<https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/information-for-students-2/#tab-content-services-supports>

# COVID-19 Additional Resources

Regularly check in with reliable sources of information, as new and evolving information becomes available regarding COVID-19:

## Government of Ontario

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/index.html>

## Government of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

## Public Health Ontario

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

**Thank you for doing your part to keep the  
McMaster community healthy and safe.**

Environmental and Occupational Health Support Services  
[eoHSS@mcmaster.ca](mailto:eoHSS@mcmaster.ca)