

# Camosun College Communicable Disease Prevention Guidelines

## Introduction

The college has developed these guidelines to support all employees in daily operations following the Provincial Health Officer's (PHO) orders, the [Return-to-Campus Guidelines as set out for B.C. post-secondary institutions](#) with the support of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, the [BCCDC Return to Campus Public Health Guidance](#), and the [Communicable Disease Prevention – A Guide for Employers](#) template from WorkSafeBC.

## Personal Daily Health Checks

Every employee, student, and visitor to Camosun campuses must self-assess for symptoms of a communicable disease prior to attending Camosun campuses. Daily self-administered health checks are a personal responsibility.

Employees, students and campus visitors are not required to confirm that they have completed the health self-assessment prior to attending campus.

## Symptoms - When to get tested (Students/Employees)

If you feel sick stay home and use the [BC Self-Assessment Tool](#) app, the BCCDC [When to Get Tested Resource](#), or call 8-1-1 to determine if they should get tested for COVID-19.

If someone in your immediate household is feeling ill and you have been double vaccinated you may not have to self-isolate. Please contact 8-1-1 or your healthcare provider for medical advice as necessary.

### ***Employees and students should not participate in any activities (educational or otherwise) if they feel ill.***

For COVID-19, the public health authorities and [BCCDC](#) state that if you experience just one key symptom of fever, chills, cough, loss of sense of smell or taste, difficulty breathing then you must get tested and stay home.

If you have one secondary symptom of sore throat, loss of appetite, headache, body aches, extreme fatigue/tiredness, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea then stay home until you feel better.

If you have two or more of the secondary symptoms above, then stay home and wait 24 hours. If not better after 24 hours, go and get tested.

- [Use the B.C. COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) to determine if testing is needed.



Please contact 8-1-1 or your healthcare provider for medical advice as necessary. *Note: 8-1-1 also provides translation services in 130 languages.*

## **Symptom Reporting**

It is important to remember that a person with symptoms does not mean they have COVID-19. Ailments, such as allergies or non-infectious disorders may present with similar symptoms. For this reason, it is important to stay calm and quietly speak with the symptomatic person to help determine if the observed symptoms are usual, new, or worsening.

### ***Students***

If a student begins to experience new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, a common cold, or influenza while on campus then the student must immediately report this to the instructor, sanitize hands then go straight home and contact 8-1-1 for further instruction.

If an instructor or designate observes a student exhibiting symptoms then that student should be asked if the symptoms being displayed are new, unusual or worsening. If the student indicates the symptoms are not usual then the instructor must ask that student to immediately sanitize hands, put on a mask if not already wearing one then go straight home and contact 8-1-1 for further instruction.

***If someone becomes threatening or abusive in response to a request to put on a mask or to leave a learning space due to new or worsening symptoms, please call for Security assistance at 250-370-3075 (or dial 3075 on a campus phone)***

### ***Instructors or Designates***

If the instructor or designate begins to experience new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, a common cold, or influenza while on campus then they must sanitize their hands, put on a mask if not already wearing one, and contact their Dean (workplace leader), and a decision about cancelling the course/program/lab/exam, or an immediate replacement for the course/class/lab/exam will be made, then go straight home and contact 8-1-1 for further instruction

An email should be sent to [OHS@camosun.ca](mailto:OHS@camosun.ca) to inform about the occurrence and appropriate protocols will be initiated as necessary.

***If someone requires medical attention, call First Aid at 250-370-3075 or dial 3075 on a campus phone.***

## **Masks**

As of Aug. 25, 2021, wearing a mask in all indoor public spaces at Camosun is mandatory for employees, students and campus visitors regardless of vaccination status until further notice.

The BCCDC [Return to Campus Public Health Guidance](#) (PDF), includes the following mask guidance for face coverings in all indoor public spaces within post-secondary spaces by anyone aged 12 and older, including employees, students and visitors.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- I. In all public indoor public spaces of post secondary institutions:
  - i. This includes lecture theatres, classrooms, teaching laboratories, and other indoor instructional settings.
  - ii. Instructors and other presenters do not need to wear a mask when two metres away from students or behind a barrier while teaching in indoor public spaces.
- II. In common areas of buildings open to the public, including office buildings (e.g., lobbies, hallways, bathrooms).
- III. In common areas of sport and fitness centres when not engaged in physical activity, but a mask must be worn when transitioning between workout equipment or areas.
- IV. In coffee shops and restaurants, pubs and bars when not seated at a table.

## **Mask Exemptions**

- I. Masks are not required for workspaces such as office areas, research labs or shared offices that do not serve the public, or for meetings and seminars in small meeting rooms. Employees in a shared office situation are encouraged to be respectful of each other's personal preferences and discuss arrangements.
- II. Instructors and other presenters do not need to wear a mask when behind a barrier or two metres away from students while teaching in indoor public spaces.
- III. Students are exempt from wearing masks when delivering a presentation or lecture if they are two metres away from others, or there is a physical barrier.
- IV. Masks are also not required if a person is behind a barrier that separates them from other people, like a divider, cubicle, or in a room by themselves.
- V. Masks are not required when people are seated in a meeting room.

- VI. The mask requirement does not apply to people unable to wear a mask due to a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or a physical, cognitive or mental impairment. Nor does it apply to a person who is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person.
- a. *Employees seeking a mask exemption on these grounds should work with the college's Human Resources department for an accommodation.*
  - b. *Students requiring a medical exemption in learning spaces should be registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning.*

## **Proof of Vaccination**

Students and employees will need to provide proof of vaccination with the new BC Vaccine Card along with a photo ID starting Sept. 13, 2021 to access non-educational or discretionary services, businesses, and events on campus. The paper immunization card issued at time of vaccination can be used until Sept. 26, 2021.

This includes restaurants (other than campus cafeterias), gyms, recreation facilities, organized non-educational indoor events, discretionary indoor group recreational activities, and sporting events. Only children under 12 are exempted.

Unless otherwise specified, vaccination is required by Order of the Provincial Health Officer only for health sciences students working in health care or personal care settings. These students will need to show their BC Vaccine Card to access their practicum or clinical placements.

### **NOTE:**

- I. **Face mask exemptions** are contained in [the Order of the Public Health Officer](#).
- II. **Face shields are not a substitute** for a mask as there is an opening below the mouth.
- III. *On-campus cafeterias and campus bookstores are excluded from the BC Vaccine Card requirement.*
- IV. **If someone becomes threatening or abusive** in response to a request to put on a mask or to leave a learning space due to new or worsening symptoms, please call for **Security assistance at 250-370-3075 (or dial 3075 on a campus phone)**.



## **While on Campus Property**

Please observe the following protocols and communicate them to your students/visitors:

1. A face mask is mandatory in all indoor public/common spaces throughout the college (unless medical accommodation applies).
2. Anyone feeling ill should not attend campus.
3. Hands should be washed or sanitized upon entering.
4. Respect designated Entrances and Exits, if present.
5. Please cough or sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve. When using a tissue, dispose of it immediately after use then sanitize hands.
6. Avoid forming crowds or gatherings indoors.

## **Additional Instructions for Faculty**

1. If you have any questions regarding the Communicable Disease Prevention Plan or relevant protocols at Camosun College, please raise them with your workplace leader or contact Occupational Health and Safety at [OHS@camosun.ca](mailto:OHS@camosun.ca).
2. Communicate the above Communicable Disease Prevention guidelines to your students and other relevant personnel.

**If you have any questions regarding protocols or safety measures, please contact [OHS@camosun.ca](mailto:OHS@camosun.ca)**

## Appendix A

### What to do if a student or an employee discloses that they have tested positive for COVID -19 or another communicable disease

