

COVID-19 Protocols

Interim Mask Policy

Responsible Unit:

Safety and Security: Occupational Health & Safety

Approving Sector Head:

Vice-President Finance & Administration and CFO



August 25, 2021

Policy Statement

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions necessary to reduce the risk of infection, Acadia University has established layers of COVID-19 prevention measures to maintain the safety of our campus community. Along with physical distancing when possible, hand washing, and education on prevention measures, Acadia has implemented an Interim Mask Policy. This policy will outline the requirements of face masks on campus and applies to faculty, staff, students, contractors, along with any visitors that periodically come to campus property.

Action

All students, staff, faculty, contractors and visitors must have a face mask with them at all times while on campus.

- i) Face masks must be worn by all students, staff and faculty in all classrooms and commonly accessible shared indoor spaces on campus as well as within University vehicles.
- ii) To protect those most vulnerable, exemptions for face masks will not be granted unless for medical reasons. A face shield is an option for those individuals that meet the criteria for mask exemptions.
- iii) Face coverings must be worn covering the mouth and nose.
- iv) Professors have the option of removing their face mask for the duration of their lecture. The face mask must be secured appropriately prior to, and after the lecture is complete, as well as when speaking with a student. At the professor's discretion, face masks may be removed when there is a hinderance to understanding, as long as a 2 metre (6ft) distance can be maintained. A face shield is recommended for the Professor to wear during their lecture, if they choose not to wear a face mask during that time.
- v) Face masks may be removed for exercise, while working alone in an office, within a residence room, designated student study spaces, or while outdoors if physical distancing can be maintained.
- vi) Face masks may be removed for eating in designated eating areas, outside, or mask-free spaces only. No food will be allowed to be eaten in common areas or classrooms where masks are required according to this policy.
- vii) One-way filter valve masks, clear plastic masks (such as a Mingle masks), and neck Gaiter Masks (Neck Gaiters), are not effective at filtering aerosols, and therefore, are not effective at protecting others from the spread of COVID-19. As a result, these types of masks will not be considered as an appropriate face mask while on the Acadia University campus.

- viii) Cloth face masks should be washed and fully dried after each day's wear. Appropriate cleaning of the face mask is the responsibility of the individual.
- ix) The wearing of masks will be monitored by Safety and Security and those individuals that violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and potentially, subsequent charges under the *Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act*.

Support Services

811 Self-Assessment Guide

<https://when-to-call-about-covid19.novascotia.ca/en>

Student Health Centre <https://www2.acadiau.ca/student-life/health-wellness/clinic.html>

Counselling Centre <https://www2.acadiau.ca/student-life/health-wellness/mental-health.html>

Healthy Minds Online Support

<https://healthymindsns.ca/schools/acadia/>

Chaplaincy <https://chapel.acadiau.ca/chaplain.html>

Employee and Family Assistance Program

<https://hr.acadiau.ca/10261.html>

Mask Exemption

Mask exemptions may be granted after the following criteria have been met.

A medical note must be provided containing the following information.

1. The note must be provided and signed (not required for direct email from Doctor's office) by a medical professional.
2. The note must be on official letterhead.
3. The note must state the date.
4. The note must have the individual's name clearly stated.
5. The note must verify that the individual has a medical condition that prevents them from safely wearing a mask.

This note can be provided in person to the Safety and Security office, mailed or emailed to the following address.

Acadia Campus Security
Room 519, Acadia Students' Union Building,
30 Highland Ave., Wolfville, NS, B4P 2R6
Email: mask-exemption@acadiau.ca

Upon meeting the above criteria, a valid mask exemption card will be issued by Safety and Security. This card will be valid from September 1st, through to Aug 31st of the following year. The card holder must always be in possession of the card, while on campus. To replace a lost or stolen card, please contact Safety and Security.