COVID-19 Safety Plan

Study Spaces

Scope
UBC is committed to providing a healthy and safe learning environment. This safety plan details the COVID-19 measures and controls required for all UBC Vancouver study spaces. This plan is in alignment with the criteria outlined by Public Health. Beyond COVID-19, this plan includes strategies to prevent the spread of communicable diseases on campus.

Rationale
The University of British Columbia envisions a climate in which students, faculty and staff are provided with the best possible conditions for learning, researching and working. Above and beyond immunizations, infectious contacts throughout the post-secondary environment can be reduced using the prevention and control measures outlined in this plan.

Engagement and Review
COVID-19 Safety Plans have been developed in collaboration with Public Health, the Ministry of Advanced Education and WorkSafeBC.

This plan has been reviewed by UBC Vancouver’s Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees. Feedback and suggestions have been incorporated into the plan.

Regulatory Context
Provincial Health Office Orders
Provincial and Regional Restrictions
Post-Secondary Go-Forward Guidelines
COVID-19 Return to Campus Guidelines
WorkSafeBC

Responsibility
We can all contribute personally to the pandemic response and safety of our communities by getting vaccinated (as we are able), following campus safety plans, performing a daily health check, staying home when sick, following handwashing and hygiene etiquette and following public health orders and guidelines both on and off campus.

It is up to each one of us to do our part, but it is our collective efforts that will make the difference.
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UBC COVID-19 Rules
COVID-19 Campus Safety rules apply to all persons on campus. These rules confirm expectations of all members of the campus community, including:

- **Daily Health Self-Assessments** - required of everyone prior to attending campus
- **Stay home if you are sick**: If you feel sick stay home use the [Thrive Health](https://www.ubc.ca/health/services/thrive-health) self-assessment tool for guidance. Follow the advice from [Public Health](https://www.ubc.ca/health/services/public-health).
- **Mandatory Training** - [UBC Go Forward COVID-19 Safety Planning Training](https://www.ubc.ca/health/services/covid-19/campus-safety-training) required of employees
- **Signage**: Everyone must follow relevant signage when moving around UBC campuses or worksites.
- **COVID-19 safety plans & communicable disease plans**: Supervisors will ensure that all faculty and staff are familiar with the latest guidance from the Provincial Health Officer as it relates to their work areas.
- **Requirement to wear Face Coverings** - All persons on UBC premises must wear an appropriate face covering in all study spaces. For a complete list of exceptions and details on mask requirements, refer to the [UBC COVID-19 Campus Rules](https://www.ubc.ca/health/services/covid-19/campus-rules).
- **Following direction of Public Health** - as it relates to PHO Orders, contact tracing and isolation requirements
- **UBC Rapid Testing Requirement** - all persons are required to be regularly tested for COVID-19, but can be exempted from this requirement by disclosing if they are fully vaccinated through the confidential UBC Vaccination Status Declaration. Please see [https://rapidtesting.covid19.ubc.ca/](https://rapidtesting.covid19.ubc.ca/) for more information.

For further information and complete list of rules, visit [COVID-19 Campus Rules](https://www.ubc.ca/health/services/covid-19/campus-rules). Frequently asked questions about COVID-19 protocols at UBC can be found [here](https://www.ubc.ca/health/services/covid-19/faq).

Infection Control in Common Study Spaces
Although the expected occupancy of common study spaces is consistent with pre-COVID-19 levels, there are several controls that are being applied within these spaces in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Cleaning and Hygiene
UBC Building Operations will continue to clean public spaces and sanitize high touch areas daily. For further information, visit [UBC Building Operations](https://www.ubc.ca/operations/). 

Managing Contacts and Limiting Close Interactions
Throughout campus, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to limit the number of close sustained contacts with others, which includes avoidance of situations where individuals congregate in shared areas. Occupants are expected to not linger, wait or loiter in in hallways, corridors, foyers and other spaces that are intended for travel.

Last edited: January 17, 2022
Respiratory Etiquette and Hand Hygiene
Occupants are expected to practice respiratory etiquette by coughing/sneezing into their mask, a tissue or into the sleeve of their shirt. Occupants are also expected to regularly wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or make use of hand sanitizer stations. Hand sanitizer stations managed by Building Operations are available in the main building entrance/foyer. Everyone is encouraged to carry their own hand sanitizer.

Signage
All occupants are required to follow signage in study spaces.

Additional Resources & Support
To support and enhance the health and wellbeing of all students, UBC offers a variety of health resources available to the campus community. Visit the Students Services website for further information.

To support and enhance the health and wellbeing of all faculty and staff, UBC offers a variety of health resources available to the campus community. Visit UBC Human Resources for further information.

Communication Strategy
This Safety Plan will be posted on Safety & Risk Services’ website, the Learning Spaces website, and the UBC Safe Vancouver App.

Monitoring and Continual Improvement
Building administrators, Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees and Local Safety Teams are encouraged to monitor study spaces and report unresolved concerns to ready.ubc@ubc.ca.

Every effort is to be taken by all students, faculty and staff to promote an understanding of PHO Orders, COVID-19 Campus Rules and COVID-19 Safety Plans within the campus community. A respectful and educational approach is expected for all related interactions. Where faculty and staff are not comfortable addressing non-compliant behavior or feel that related interactions cannot be performed in a respectful manner, matters should be referred to their supervisor. Campus Security can assist as necessary. For further information and strategies, review the Respecful Engagement guidance document.

Safety Concerns
Any concerns or questions can be sent to ready.ubc@ubc.ca