

**From:** [Faculty of Health Science \(announce\)](#)  
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This message is for faculty and staff of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) from Paul O'Byrne, Dean and Vice-President

McMaster University yesterday issued [an update to its COVID-19 protocols](#) concerning masking, indicating that masking is recommended but not required as of June 1, 2022; however, I want to reaffirm the continuing protocols for members of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**If you are in any hospital or healthcare facility including the Health Sciences Centre:**

- McMaster faculty, staff and learners must continue to follow location-specific policies and procedures including masking, active daily screening, and personal vaccination attestation.
- Faculty and staff are encouraged to keep their vaccination attestation, including third doses, updated on [MacCheck](#).
- Students in health professional programs and/or who are doing placements in high risk settings should submit vaccination information through the Health Screening Office following your education program's direction.
- Faculty and staff are required to report their own COVID-19 illness, as confirmed through a Rapid Antigen or PCR test, through [Mosaic](#). This is in keeping with Ontario workplace safety requirements.
- Health professional learners should check with their program offices for instructions on reporting their personal COVID-19 illness to placement locations.

**If you are on McMaster campuses, including the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery (MDCL); Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS); Communications Research Laboratory (CRL); David Braley Health Sciences Centre (DBHSC) and the Waterloo Regional Campuses, or visiting the Health Sciences Library and Ewart Angus Centre in the Health Sciences Centre (HSC):**

- The mask mandate will be paused as of June 1, but the university strongly encourages masking when indoors or in close proximity of others while outdoors. Free surgical masks continue to be available at several locations, including the Campus Store.
- Masking may be required for faculty, staff and learners who are interacting with individuals who are at high risk. Directions about mandatory masking will come from FHS education programs.
- The vaccination mandate was paused for McMaster faculty, staff, learners and visitors as of May 1, however, vaccination is still required of new hires to the university, all learners in health professional program learners or doing placements in settings considered high risk for COVID-19.
- Everyone is encouraged to keep their vaccination record, including third doses, updated on [MacCheck](#).
- MacCheck is no longer required to be completed daily before attending a campus site; however, faculty and staff and learners are required to use the [Ontario COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool](#) and follow its direction.
- Faculty and staff need to continue to report their positive COVID-19 cases, as confirmed

through a Rapid Antigen or PCR test, through Mosaic. This follows current Ontario workplace safety requirements.

- Students not in health professional programs are no longer required to report their own COVID-19 illness, but are expected to stay home if sick for any reason.
- There has been no change in [directions for eating and drinking](#) on campus. Physical distancing is required when eating and drinking in work spaces such as meeting rooms or shared offices. Physical distancing is not required when eating or drinking in restaurants, eateries and catered events.

**The Niagara Regional Campuses of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine** is following the guidance of its host Brock University which is continuing indoor masking for the foreseeable future.

While the university is pausing most of its previous pandemic requirements, these protocols may be restarted if pandemic circumstances and public health advice change.

Meanwhile, here at the Faculty of Health Sciences, we look forward to the wonderful occasions next week as we celebrate our first in-person convocations since 2019, and the university also holds legacy events for those graduates of the past two years. Congratulations to all of the Faculty's graduates.

Looking back over the past 28 months, it is remarkable what we have accomplished at the Faculty of Health Sciences in responding to the pandemic in proactive, creative ways while maintaining high quality learning, discovery and health care. Thank you, everyone, for your innovation, flexibility, hard work, conscientiousness, patience, and understanding.

Very best wishes,

Paul

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