Classroom Masking Guidance

MASKING REQUIREMENTS
In accordance with the Face Coverings (COVID-19) PHO Order, all students, faculty, staff and visitors are required to wear a mask in:

- Classrooms and study spaces including lecture theatres, teaching laboratories, art studios and shops, music and theatre facilities and other indoor instructional settings that are used for in-person educational programs. Until further notice, the consumption of food or beverages is not permitted in classrooms, study spaces, labs, libraries and other in-person learning environments.
- Common areas of buildings open to the public including hallways, lobbies, stairwells, elevators and bathrooms
- Other workplace areas that are shared or open to the public

For return to campus, UVic Ambassadors will be present in buildings to promote, educate and assist the campus community on our return to campus safety measures. They will also have a supply of disposable masks available, if required, to support mask wearing in public spaces and classrooms.

EXEMPTIONS
Medically based masking exemptions apply:

- if unable to wear a face covering because of a psychological, behavioural or health condition; or a physical, cognitive or mental impairment
- if unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person
- while communicating with a person for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential (note: individuals may also consider the use of a transparent mask and such masks may be recommended for participation in ASL courses)

General masking exemptions apply:

- if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- while delivering instruction, a lecture or presentation if there is a distance of two metres between the presenter and other persons in attendance, or the presenter is behind a barrier
- while engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, for example while actively playing a wind instrument
- if the student is behind a barrier separating the student from other persons, for example a divider or cubical
- while participating in physical activity organized by the university or at a fitness facility or sport facility operated by the university (please check CARSA website for current masking requirements)
- while in a workplace area (e.g. meeting room, shared office area, research lab or facility) if there is a distance of two meters between individuals when seated or at a workstation, or they are separated by a barrier
- if a student, faculty or staff member is in a room by themselves with no one else present (e.g. single occupancy office, small meeting room etc.)
- while actively consuming food or drink (except in classrooms, study spaces, labs, libraries and other in person learning environments – note: consuming a beverage is permitted for a person who is delivering a presentation, lecture, or performing, and while maintaining 2m of physical distance from others)
STUDENT EXPECTATIONS
Students must follow all masking requirements in the classroom. If a student has a medically based masking exemption, they should:
1. Claim the masking exemption on the THRIVE app
2. Advise their instructors of the exemption on the first day of class (or as soon as possible)
3. Students claiming these exemptions must provide medical evidence in support of the exemption on request from the University

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS
Instructors can review a masking situation or issue to verify whether a mask removal falls into one of the exemptions in a classroom setting. If none of the exemptions apply:
1. Instructors may ask students who are not wearing masks to speak with the instructor in private, before or after class, to inquire if they have an eligible mask exemption.
2. If they do not, ask them to wear a mask or obtain one from a UVic Ambassador (where available).
3. If the student continues to attend class unmasked, with no exemption, please refer the issue, along with the student’s name, to the chair/director of the relevant course for follow-up.

Instructors are to follow the above steps to address the issue, and not ask the student to leave the classroom if they are unmasked unless they are also exhibiting behavior which is otherwise disruptive to the class.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Occupational Health, Safety and Environment
Learning and Teaching Support & Innovation
UVic Thrive Health (mask declarations)
Vaccination Information
UVic Return to Campus Guidelines
LTSI Guidance on Use of Mics in Classrooms