

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES

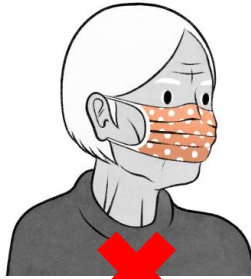
### Special COVID-19 Requirements for Laboratories and Fieldwork

#### General Information

1. Cloth face masks and disposable masks provide a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from travelling into the air and onto other people. Cloth or disposable face masks supplement, but do not replace, social distancing precautions. Maintain a 6 ft distance (at least two arm lengths) from others in the laboratory whenever possible.
2. Wash hands regularly and avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth when donning or removing your cloth face mask.
3. Always have a clean backup face mask in the event that your mask becomes damaged, soiled or wet.
4. Cloth face masks should be changed after working in the laboratory and laundered before re-use. Place used face masks in a sealable plastic bag until they can be laundered. Disposable face masks should be discarded.
5. Use extreme caution when working with open flames. Some face masks may be made of flammable materials. 100% cotton masks and those made out of polyester blends (>35% cotton) are recommended.
6. Face masks may cause required safety goggles to fog up. Do not remove either the mask or goggles. Anti-fogging spray should be applied to eye protection, before wearing, to prevent fogging as needed.
7. Masks must fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and allow for breathing without restriction. They should not have an exhalation valve.
8. Always don face masks with clean hands. Do not touch or adjust mask without washing hands first.



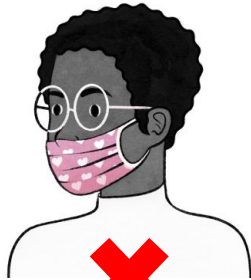
DON'T: Wear the mask below your nose.



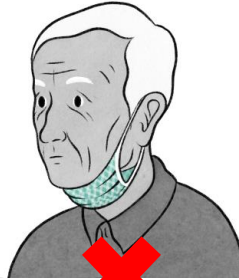
DON'T: Leave your chin exposed.



DON'T: Wear the mask loosely with gaps on the sides.



DON'T: Wear the mask so it covers just the tip of your nose.



DON'T: Push the mask under your chin to rest on your neck.



DO: Wear the mask so it comes all the way up, close to the bridge of your nose, and all the way down under your chin.

9. Cleaner will be provided for sanitization of shared equipment/instruments. Technicians are responsible for ensuring compatible cleaners are available for equipment and for providing directions on how to properly clean equipment.
10. Field work equipment must be sanitized before storage.
11. The sharing of personal protective equipment is not advised.
12. Hard to clean shared items such as heat and cryogenic gloves should be used with caution. Always wear disposable gloves as a base layer under these gloves.

### **Before Class**

1. Anyone who exhibits any of the known symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea) should not come onto Campus. Students should email the course lecturer explaining their absence prior to the start of the class.
2. No bags will be allowed in the laboratory. Students are encouraged to utilise lockers etc. for bags and should ensure that they have all essential materials for the laboratory session as no sharing of pens, pencils etc will be allowed.

3. Masks are required for entry to laboratories and transport for field trips. Students are expected to queue 6 ft apart. Queues for entry to the laboratories must be external to the buildings and NOT along the internal corridors. Floor decals will be installed to assist with maintaining physical distance.
4. As per the policy of the Department, appropriate PPE (lab coat, safety goggles, gloves etc.) are required for entry to the laboratories.
5. Hands must be sanitized before entry to the laboratories and transport for field trips.

#### **During Class**

6. Masks must be properly worn (both the mouth and nostrils must be covered) at all times.
7. Where possible for laboratories, one door will be designated for entry and another for exit.
8. In some laboratories, workspaces will be demarcated. Students are expected to remain in their assigned workspaces as much as possible. A seating plan will be available for buses and students are expected to occupy the same assigned seats on both legs of the journey.
9. Bus windows are to remain open (where possible) for the duration of the trip.
10. Students should at all times try to maintain 6 ft distance from other persons. The procedure for seeking assistance from lab supervisors, technicians and/or demonstrators will be communicated at the beginning of the lab session.
11. Lab supervisors and technicians are allowed to move between laboratories, however, hand sanitization should occur before entry to the lab spaces. Allow hands to dry thoroughly before putting on gloves.
12. If an experiment requires the wearing of gloves, these should be removed, discarded and hands washed prior to adjusting masks and/or safety goggles. A new pair of gloves should be donned to continue with the experiment.
13. In the laboratory, students are expected to be involved in individual work as far as possible. Requirements for the experiment will be placed at individual workspaces. If students need to view an exhibit on the side benches or use communal instrument/equipment, this activity will be coordinated by the lab supervisor or demonstrator to ensure physical distancing.
14. Communal instrument/equipment will be sanitized between users.
15. In practicals involving use of microscopes, students will be assigned to a microscope for their sole use. Cameras and images will be utilised for consultation with lab supervisors and/or demonstrators.
16. Students in the field are expected to maintain the required 6 ft spacing. Tasks/roles will be communicated to students.

#### **After Class**

17. At the end of all laboratory sessions, before exiting the lab, students must wash their hands with soap and water (20 secs) and dry their hands with paper towels, all the while maintaining physical distancing.

18. At the end of field work, before boarding the bus, hands must be sanitized.
19. Unless otherwise directed by the lab supervisor, all laboratory and field work reports must be submitted online.

### **General Sanitisation**

20. Individual student work spaces and commonly touched lab surfaces (door knobs, light switches) will be sanitized after each class.
21. Where possible, individual reagent bottles should be prepared for each student with the exception of proprietary reagents in kits.
22. The following should be sanitized between classes:
  - a. outer surfaces of bottles with preserved biological specimens
  - b. prepared slides
  - c. surfaces of microscopes, spectrophotometers, micropipettes etc
23. Field measuring tapes and other infrequently used apparatus can be placed in containment for 72 hours before use.
24. Laboratories should be kept locked between classes.