

UFV Communicable Disease Prevention

A communicable disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxic product that can be transmitted in the workplace from one person to another. Examples of a communicable disease include COVID-19, norovirus, measles and seasonal influenza.

This plan describes ongoing prevention measures that are maintained at all times, as well as additional measures that may be taken as directed by [Fraser Health’s medical health officer](#) or [B.C.’s provincial health officer](#) where related to our industry, region or workplace. This includes orders, guidance, notices and recommendations issued by a medical health officer or the provincial health officer.

Scope

This prevention program applies to faculty, staff, students and visitors at all UFV campuses, or to any individuals performing work on behalf of the university.

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Monitoring

UFV has a process for monitoring and reviewing communicable disease related information issued by [Fraser Health’s medical health officer](#) or [B.C.’s provincial health officer](#) that relates to our industry, region or workplace. This process includes reviewing and operationalizing orders, guidance, notices and recommendations issued by these health officers.

Ongoing measures, practices and policies to reduce the risk

- ✓ UFV has implemented policies to support faculty, staff and students who have symptoms of communicable disease (e.g. fever or chills, coughing, diarrhea) so they can avoid being on campus when sick.
 - For faculty and staff, refer to the [Sick leave program](#) or contact hrinfo@ufv.ca for further information.

- Students are to complete a [Student Declaration of Absence form](#) and provide it to their instructor. Where necessary, a member of UFV's Student Services team will follow up with the student.
- ✓ UFV has ensured that appropriate hand-hygiene facilities are available with appropriate supplies. For concerns or assistance regarding hand-hygiene facilities, contact facilitieservicesdesk@ufv.ca. Signs are posted appropriately to remind faculty, staff, students and visitors to wash/sanitize their hands regularly and to cover coughs and sneezes.
- ✓ UFV maintains a clean environment through routine cleaning processes according to a schedule designed for our institutional needs. For concerns or assistance regarding cleaning/sanitation, contact facilitieservicesdesk@ufv.ca.
- ✓ UFV has ensured that building ventilation is adequate and that the systems are properly maintained and function as designed. For concerns or assistance regarding ventilation, contact facilitieservicesdesk@ufv.ca.
- ✓ UFV supports employees in receiving vaccinations for vaccine-preventable communicable diseases, including COVID-19. Specific support policies depend on the communicable disease of concern.

Additional measures

During periods of elevated risk, [Fraser Health's medical health officer](#) or [B.C.'s provincial health officer](#) may provide additional information and guidance about the risk and measures that UFV should take to prevent transmission of the communicable disease. The additional measures needed are specific to the type of disease and the methods of transmission. In general, UFV will:

- ✓ Follow all direction from Fraser Health's medical health officer or B.C.'s provincial health officer.
- ✓ Follow all orders, guidance, recommendations and notices issued by Fraser Health's medical health officer or B.C.'s provincial health officer that are relevant to our industry, region, or workplace.
- ✓ Depending on the guidance issued by public health, UFV will assess the workplace to identify areas, activities and processes that may pose a risk to workers. UFV may also need to implement appropriate control measures to reduce the risk, following the direction of public health.

Current Additional Measures

Below is a list of orders, guidance, recommendations and notices that apply to UFV:

1. Guidance in relation to Non-medical face masks/face coverings is issued by the provincial health office, and UFV abides by the guidance. Currently, non-medical masks/face coverings are required in all indoor common areas, with the following exceptions:
 - a) If an individual is unable to wear a face covering because of:
 - i. a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
 - ii. a physical, cognitive, or mental impairment.
 - b) If the individual is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person.
 - c) The face non-medical masks/face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the individual.

- d) The individual is consuming food or drink while seated. *For Faculty and Staff, removing non-medical masks/face coverings for this purpose is to be done in designated areas including breakrooms.*
- e) While the individual is participating in physical activity organized by the post-secondary institution or at a fitness or sport facility.
- f) While communicating with a person for whom the visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential.
- g) If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, for example while actively playing a wind instrument.
- h) If the individual is behind a barrier separating the student from other persons, for example a divider or cubicle.
- i) If the individual is in a room by themselves.
- j) If the individual is in a post-secondary space and no other students, post-secondary staff persons or members of the public are present.
- k) The student or faculty member is delivering a presentation or lecture if: a. there is a distance of two metres separating the individual delivering the presentation or lecture and students and other persons attending the presentation or lecture, or
- l) b. there is a physical barrier between the individual delivering the lecture and the students and the persons attending the presentation or lecture.

Refer to [UFV's COVID-19 Operations Guideline – Masks](#) for additional information.

2. Work/Organized Gatherings and Student Activities continue to require an [Event Safety Plan](#). Increased number of participants allowed at indoor (50 people or 50% capacity) and outdoor (5,000 or 50% capacity) events and activities with approved safety
3. Daily self-administered health checks will be a personal responsibility. Students, faculty, staff and campus visitors are not required to confirm that they have completed the health self-assessment prior to accessing campus. Individuals experiencing symptoms should stay home, consult the B.C. COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if COVID-19 testing is needed, and contact 811 or their healthcare provider for medical advice as necessary.
4. On Monday, August 23, the Government of British Columbia announced that proof of vaccination will be required through the [BC Vaccine card](#) in order to [attend certain non-essential social and recreational gatherings and events](#). The measures set out by the Province will, as relevant, apply to post-secondary campuses including UFV.

Currently, students, faculty, and staff will be required to show proof of vaccination in the following circumstances:

- **Students living in on-campus housing** - proof of first vaccination will be required through the [BC Vaccine Card](#) by September 7 and full vaccination by Oct. 24. UFV recognizes that a transition period beyond September 7 may be needed for students arriving from outside BC and Canada in order to access vaccinations and obtain a BC Vaccine Card. Further information will be provided in the coming week.

- **Students participating in off-campus activities** - UFV students who are required to follow all regulations of the external partner when participating in off-campus activities (for example medical clinical placements) will require proof of partial vaccination with one dose by September 13 and full vaccination seven days after dose two by Oct. 24.
- **Athletics** – Students, faculty and staff using UFV gyms and recreational facilities will require proof of partial vaccination (one dose) by September 13 and proof of full vaccination seven days after dose two by Oct. 24.

Communication measures, practices and policies

UFV will ensure that everyone entering campus spaces, and workers performing work on UFV's behalf remotely, receives information about the measures, practices, and policies for managing communicable diseases. In general, UFV will:

- ✓ Ensure that all workers understand the preventative measures related to communicable disease that are in place.
- ✓ Provide all workers with information on policies for staying home when sick.
- ✓ Post signage in the workplace to support the preventative measures that are in place.
- ✓ Ensure that supervisors are knowledgeable about preventative measures, practices and policies, and incorporate these into supervision practices in the workplace.
- ✓ Provide information, signage and materials to workers in a language they understand.
- ✓ Be mindful that some aspects of managing communicable disease in the workplace may raise privacy and confidentiality issues. Ensure to handle these issues appropriately.

Monitor and update the plan

UFV will continuously monitor and update our plan to reflect changing risk levels and work practices. In general, UFV will:

- ✓ Use workplace inspections and ongoing supervision in the workplace to ensure preventative measures are effective, followed and maintained.
- ✓ Monitor the guidance, notices, orders and recommendations from Public Health and adjust our plans as necessary.
- ✓ Monitor our workplace and risk level and change our measures, practices and policies as necessary.
- ✓ Update our plans to reflect changes in the workplace, including work processes, staff, and premises.
- ✓ Employees and students know who to go to with health and safety concerns. For employees, concerns are brought directly to supervisors. For students, concerns are brought to instructors or student services. For all individuals on campus, concerns can also be reported through the online [Hazard Reporting Portal](#) or to EHS@ufv.ca.
- ✓ When identifying and resolving safety issues, involve the joint health and safety committees.

