

Face coverings at St Catharine's College

January 2021

When do we expect you to wear a face covering in College?

St Catharine's College expects everyone within the community to wear a face covering at ALL times in ALL indoor settings, even if social distancing of at least 2m can be maintained, subject to exemptions (detailed below).

Other precautions should be maintained alongside face coverings. For example, social distancing will reduce the likelihood that we might be required to self-isolate as a [close contact](#) of someone with COVID-19.

Members of the College community should carry a face covering at all times and are strongly encouraged to wear theirs outdoors as well as indoors, in order to reduce the frequency of putting on and removing a face covering. This should make it less likely that you need to touch your face or the face covering, [which the Government advises us to avoid](#).

Contractors working on the College's Island site will be wearing face coverings at all times, indoors and outdoors.

What is a face covering?

It can be a reusable cloth or a single-use disposable covering that must cover the nose, chin and side of the face, with no gaps.

Are there any exemptions?

In line with [Government advice](#), you are not required to wear a face covering in some circumstances. Please note, if someone is not wearing a mask, it may be for one of the exempt reasons which may not be obvious. In addition, a face covering is not mandatory in your own household or when working alone in single-occupancy rooms with closed doors.

Do students have to wear a face covering in their 'households'?

- Students **are not required** to wear face coverings when they are in their households with other students also living in that household, unless they wish to.
- Social distancing measures and the wearing of face coverings may be required in households in some scenarios, e.g. during visits by staff for maintenance.

How to wear a face covering

A face covering should securely cover both the nose and mouth. The St Catharine's community is expected to follow the [latest government advice](#) on safely wearing face coverings.

What to do with a used face covering

Once you've taken a face covering off, it should be treated as though it is contaminated:

- Do **not** place it on surfaces such as table tops.
- Do **not** touch areas of the covering that have been in contact with your nose or mouth.
- Single-use face coverings should be disposed of in a waste bin (unfortunately not recycling).
- Re-usable face covering should be stored until it can be washed – please carry a bag with you that you can put the face covering safely away.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed between uses – this can be done with other laundry.