

Face coverings at St Catharine's College

October 2020

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, unless it is clear that social distancing measures can be maintained (at least 2m) or they are within their own household.

We are now recommending the use of face coverings for indoor meetings and teaching sessions lasting longer than 15 minutes even where it was possible to observe the appropriate social distance (2m). By following this updated policy, we can all reduce the likelihood that we might be required to self-isolate as a close contact of someone with COVID-19. We should also carry face coverings with us at all times and wear them when asked to do so by College or University authorities or when it would be a courtesy to others.

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.

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. visits by staff for maintenance, cleaning and other reasons where it is not possible to keep 2m apart.

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.