

# Mask Update

November 19, 2021

Dear DLSPH Community,

We continue to plan for our return to in-person classes and other activities in January. Faculty members are working diligently to include in-person components for each class; and program directors are coordinating across programs to ensure that each program offers meaningful in-person activity.

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through this process. We will keep you updated regularly as decisions are made. As well, we are working on identifying dedicated study spaces for those students coming onto campus who will have a mix of in-person and virtual classes.

And finally, we would like to call your attention to the following announcement from the University of Toronto on the branded, two-layer non-medical masks that were offered to all students, faculty and staff members and librarians for personal use in May 2020.

## **These masks are no longer being distributed.**

As you know, non-medical masks [must be worn indoors in all common-use spaces on University of Toronto property.](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada suggested in November 2020 that non-medical masks have three layers to provide added protection. However, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada and Public Health Ontario clarified that existing two-layer masks can still be used and do not need to be discarded if they are well maintained and well fitting.

If you have a U of T-branded two-layer mask that covers your nose, mouth and chin without gapping and allows you to breathe easily, you may add a third layer to it for added protection. Please see [Toronto Public Health's guidelines for the use of face masks](#) for instructions. If wearing a mask while working with hazardous material when conducting required onsite activities (e.g. biological agents, flammable chemicals, radioactive agents), please speak to your supervisor/principal investigator about appropriate and safe use of face coverings and masks.

Sincerely,

DLSPH Communications