

# NIC COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

	General Operations	Employee Worksites	Services / Bookable Space (Libraries/Student Services/ Cafeterias/Bookstores)	Learning Spaces	Non-Core Educational Services (events on campus)
<b>Fall Term</b>  Vaccination is <b>strongly</b> recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All NIC campuses are <b>open</b> to public, with normal operations.</li> <li><a href="#">Daily self-administered health check</a> is a personal responsibility. Do not attend campus when ill. If ill, isolate and contact 811.</li> <li>Masks are <b>required</b> in classrooms and public indoor spaces. e.g. washrooms, hallways, Library &amp; Learning Commons, cafeterias and public gathering areas.</li> <li>Normal social contact.</li> <li><b>Enhanced</b> cleaning and sanitization in place, with cleaning products and hand sanitation available for use by personal choice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-campus work and activities.</li> <li>Masks are <b>required</b> in public indoor spaces. e.g. washrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and common employee areas.</li> <li>Masks are <b>required</b> in office spaces by all parties for one-on-one visits or appointments between employees and students or the public.</li> <li>Masks are <b>required</b> when moving around a communal workspace but can be removed while seated / positioned at a desk or workstation.</li> <li>Masks are <b>highly recommended</b> in shared office spaces where no barriers or dividers are in place and a two-metre distance cannot be maintained between workstations.</li> <li>Masks are not required when seated in a meeting room.</li> <li>Masks are not required if a person is behind a barrier that separates them from other people, like a screen, cubicle divider, or in a room by themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Full-service</b> operations with normal occupancy.</li> <li>Organized gatherings can be booked with <b>full capacity</b> and <b>normal social contact</b>.</li> <li>Masks are <b>required</b> in indoor public spaces.</li> <li>Masks may be removed once seated to eat.</li> <li>Campus cafeterias are exempt from the BC Vaccine Card but must operate using communicable disease control plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Full</b> occupancies within classrooms, theatres, and labs.</li> <li>Field schools and field research are <b>not limited</b>.</li> <li>Barriers and screens remain in place (until further notice).</li> <li>In lecture theatres and classrooms, instructors need to wear a mask unless:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is a two-metre distance from students while teaching (lecture, 1:1, or small group instruction), or</li> <li>they are exempt by mask exemptions below.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Students are <b>required</b> to wear a mask in a classroom or learning space at all times, except when they fall under the provincial health order mask exemptions below.</li> </ul>	<p><b>By order of the Provincial Health Officer</b>, all students and employees will need to provide proof of vaccination via the BC Vaccine Card to access non-core educational services and events on campus. Proof of vaccination will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attend indoor ticketed events, concerts, dance and sporting events;</li> <li>attend organized indoor events (e.g. clubs, conferences); and</li> <li>attend discretionary organized indoor group recreational classes and activities.</li> </ul>

For student and employee mask order details and the exemption process, see Masks on Page 2 below.

\* Guidance for this document is taken from the [Return-to-Campus Guidelines for Post-Secondary](#)

## Self-Assessment

Stay at home when sick and avoid close contact with others. The Ministry of Health, in partnership with Thrive Health, created a [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to provide up-to-date guidance and recommendations for COVID-19 testing and follow-up that follows BCCDC guidance. This tool does not replace your health care provider's advice.

## BC Vaccine Card

The BC Vaccine Card is now available. For information please visit the [BC Vaccine Proof website](#).

## COVID-19 Vaccination

At this time, COVID-19 vaccination is not required for NIC students to access educational services. Vaccinations are also not required for employees to work at NIC facilities. NIC strongly encourages all students and employees who are medically able to receive COVID-19 vaccination to do so, in line with BC Public Health guidance.

## When and how can I get a vaccine?

Everyone who would like a vaccine, and who is eligible to receive one, is now able to get vaccinated. Learn more about vaccination [registration and eligibility](#).

1. **Register with the Get Vaccinated System.** All people living in British Columbia who are 12 years of age and older can now register to book vaccines online at [gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated](http://gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated), toll-free at 1-833-838-2323, or in-person at the nearest [Service BC location](#). [Parents can register their children \(12 and up\) to prepare for vaccinations.](#)
2. **Make an appointment or drop in** to an [Island Health Clinic](#).

## Where do I find reliable information about vaccine safety?

Learn how to find [trusted sources for information about vaccines](#). Health Canada has a thorough approval process to ensure the safety of many routine vaccines and medicines. Learn more about [vaccine safety](#).

## Immunization record

You will have the option to receive a paper or digital copy of your immunization record. By registering for [Health Gateway](#), you will be able to access your digital immunization record. Your immunization record will also be stored in the online provincial database, accessible to you, public health, and your doctor.

Visit the [ImmunizeBC](#) website and find [frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination](#).

## Masks

**Mask use is required in all indoor public spaces unless you are medically exempt**, as required by the Oct. 29,2021 [Provincial Health Officer \(PHO\) Order](#).

The Order does not have an expiration date.

### Exemptions to wearing a mask:

- (a) If the employee or student is unable to wear a face covering because of
  - (i) a psychological, behavioral or health condition, or
  - (ii) a physical, cognitive or mental impairment;
- (a) if the employee or student is unable to put on or remove a face covering without the assistance of another person;
- (b) if the face covering is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the staff or student;
- (c) while the staff or student is consuming food or drink;
- (d) while participating in exercise or sport organized by the post-secondary institution or at a fitness facility or sport facility operated by the post-secondary institution;
- (e) while communicating with a person with a disability or diverse ability for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip-reading or lip movements are essential;
- (f) 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 or participating in high intensity physical activity;
- (g) if the staff or student is behind a barrier separating them from other persons, for example a divider or cubicle;
- (h) if the student is in a post-secondary space and no other students, post-secondary staff persons or members of the public are present;
- (i) the staff or student is delivering a presentation or lecture or teaching or performing, if:
  - (i) there is a two-metre distance separating the post-secondary staff person or student delivering the presentation or lecture and students and other persons attending the presentation or lecture, or
  - (ii) there is a physical barrier between the post-secondary staff person and the students and other persons in attending the presentation, lecture or performance;
- (j) if the post-secondary staff person is in an office or other indoor area of a building or structure operated by the post-secondary institution and if no students or members of the public are present.

**Exemption process:** Students seeking a mask exemption should contact [studentlife@nic.bc.ca](mailto:studentlife@nic.bc.ca). Employees should contact Human Resources at [HR@nic.bc.ca](mailto:HR@nic.bc.ca).

**For more information, employees should contact their supervisor and students should contact [questions@nic.bc.ca](mailto:questions@nic.bc.ca).**