

March 29, 2022

Summary of recent updates to COVID measures for research space:

The rapid changes in the COVID-19 [legislation](#) allow universities to remove a lot of old measures and improve researchers' access to their spaces.

Here are a few quick points to summarize the changes over the past few week's:

1. All research facilities (labs, offices, etc.) can be open to 100 %, with no capacity limits.
2. The two-meter requirement was removed. While eating, it is encouraged to have distancing. The masks in a food area should be removed only for eating or drinking and put back right after.
3. There are two remaining requirements: masking in all UofT spaces (labs, offices, meeting rooms, common areas, etc.) and completing UCheck before visiting campus every day.
4. The UofT [COVID Ambassador](#) program at the door of the buildings will continue until the exam period. The program will end on April 8.
5. Masking outside is not required but recommended for specific activities (public engagement, the possibility of close contact and other high-risk environments)
6. In private offices, open concept/shared offices, and other work areas, employees may remove their masks once seated and when physical distancing (2 meters) can be consistently maintained. Still, they must put masks back on when leaving their desks. Mask exclusions might also apply to research environments (non-hazardous labs, research offices, design studios, etc.) where physical distancing can be maintained, and there is **no** requirement for PPE due to hazards.
7. There is no need for collecting contact information anymore for COVID.
8. However, it is a standard (pre-COVID) practice that the Principal Investigator knows who/when/where is working in a hazardous environment (mechanical hazards, bio/chem/rad hazards, WHIMS hazards, etc.).
9. Because the contact tracing is no longer required, proactive disinfection associated with the case will **no** longer be provided.
10. Public health no longer specifies two times daily disinfection. The processes and procedures within the research labs and offices can continue proper hygiene by providing workers and students with materials to clean/disinfect their benches, workstations, commonly used equipment without specifying a mandatory frequency.
11. When someone experiences symptoms associated with respiratory illness (flu, common cold, COVID), the person should be "red" on UCheck and stay home.
12. Inform UofT Occupational Health Nurse and your supervisor if you are tested positive for COVID or if Public Health ordered you to isolate.
13. As of March 21, 2022, the [Face-to-Face \(F2F\) COVID-19 review process](#) has moved to an attestation model as part of the ethics submission process.
14. For studies that involve international travel, researchers should review the [Safety Abroad in an Emergency](#) webpage, and graduate students requesting travel must register with the [Safety Abroad Office](#).