

**Effective Nov. 6, 2020 all faculty, staff and students—as well as visitors, contractors and vendors—who are approved to be on USask campuses in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert will be expected to wear a face mask (non-medical mask or cloth face covering) in all USask spaces.**

Although there are some exceptions to the USask mask protocol, generalized mask exceptions will not be provided for issues of comfort, fogging glasses, or general laboratory activities.

## USING MASKS IN A RESEARCH LABORATORY

Face masks must be used in research laboratories with consideration for:

- Users must prevent contamination from radioactive, biological, and chemical materials.
- If there is a risk of hazardous materials (such as chemical solvents) absorbing into or onto cloth face masks, use disposable face masks instead.
  - Disposable masks are typically made of polymers and non-woven fabrics making them less absorbent than cloth face masks.
- When the procedure calls for a flame resistant labcoat, a mask with an equivalent level of resistance should be selected
- Like a lab coat, face masks used in a laboratory must never be worn outside the lab.
  - If you must leave the lab, utilize a different mask outside the lab.
- Ensure face masks are laundered or disposed of at the end of the day.

## MASK USE TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES

Always ensure hand hygiene is performed before and after donning and doffing you face mask.

If a face mask is uncomfortable, try different style straps or try pleated masks.

To prevent fogging issues, try the following solutions:

- Apply an anti-fog (ex. Uvex Fog Eliminator) to the lens of your glasses;
- Use a mask with adjustable/flexible nose bridge to ensure proper fit; and

Use athletic tape or similar tape to tape the mask down near the glasses.