

# COVID-19 GUIDELINES

# USING SINGLE-USE MASKS AT USASK

**As an enhanced protection measure for COVID-19, the University of Saskatchewan is requiring faculty, staff, students and visitors will be required to wear 3-ply single-use masks in all indoor spaces on USask campuses in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert. As of July 11, masks are no longer be required in outdoor locations, except for prescribed activities (ex. Kids Camps). These guidelines will be updated as the situation changes in the province but is expected to be in place until December 31, 2021.**

## WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THE CHANGE TO DISPOSABLE MASKS?

Single-use disposable masks ensure consistency in manufacturing, filtration, coverage, and ensure a standardized high level of protection for the USask campus community.

Introducing this enhanced protection now is an additional step to ensuring our campuses are as safe as possible as we prepare to further expand in-person and on-campus operations.

## WHAT MASKS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT? DO THEY NEED TO BE MEDICAL-GRADE MASKS?

All 3-ply, single-use, non-medical masks issued by USask Stores are acceptable. Masks that meet the requirement are available for your department/unit through a local University Stores or [ppesales.usask.ca](https://ppesales.usask.ca).

Non-medical masks are able to provide the enhanced level of protection with a balance of cost, comfort, and environmental impact. Medical-grade masks can be used but are not required (outside of the medical field) as the higher level of fluid impermeability designed for medical procedures is not-required for most USask processes.

## CAN MASKS BE RECYCLED?

Yes. With USask's mask recycling program, single-use masks don't have to be sent to the landfill.

Place your single-use masks(s) in one of the designated Single-use Mask Recycling Stations located at common locations such as USask Stores. The mask recycling program accepts all non-woven, single-use, plastic-base masks including surgical, medical, and non-medical single-use masks.

## CAN PEOPLE WEAR CLOTH MASKS OR OTHER MASKS ON THEIR WAY TO CAMPUS?

Yes. USask students, staff and faculty can wear the mask of their choice, following Public Health standards, until they arrive at their place of study, work, or campus destination.

## SHOULD I "DOUBLE-MASK?"

Double-masking includes a single-use mask as the first layer against the face and a cloth-mask overtop as the outside layer. Double-masking, as described by the Centre for Disease Control, is not required at the University of Saskatchewan but can be a valuable tool in ensuring your mask fits snugly against your face. Do Not combine two disposable masks.



**3-ply single-use masks in all indoor spaces on USask campuses in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert. In outdoor locations on all USask campuses, a 3-ply single-use mask is required if two or more people are together and they can't maintain a minimum of 2 metres of physical distancing.**

## WHEN AND HOW CAN SINGLE-USE MASKS BE REUSED?

Single-use masks, as they are named, are made for single-use. Yet, with proper care, and if the mask is not contaminated, degraded, or soiled, these masks can be reused throughout a day of work or study as you take it off for eating, to utilize your private office, to follow laboratory protocols, or in other appropriate circumstances.

### Please remember the following when reusing any mask:

- perform hand hygiene before and after donning and doffing a mask;
- before and after use, inspect for any contamination, tears, rips, holes, elastic/straps ripped/stretched, and other damage;
- do not reuse a mask that is damaged
- do not share masks

When working in a laboratory, it is recommended to have a dedicated mask for laboratory work. Do not wear your “lab mask” outside of the laboratory. See COVID-19 Guidelines: Face masks in laboratories for more information.

### If a single-use mask needs to be stored between uses, do so in the following manner:

- perform hand hygiene before and after donning and doffing a mask.
- avoid touching the front of the mask as that is where the majority of virus particles would be
- masks should be stored for reuse in a clean, breathable, labeled container or bag;
- if using a reusable container or bag for storage, ensure it is disposed of or cleaned daily;
- store masks so that they do not touch the masks of others.

## HOW MANY SINGLE-USE MASKS PER DAY WILL THE AVERAGE PERSON NEED?

Typically, the average person will use two masks per day. However, this may vary based on location and the type of work being completed.

## WHERE CAN SINGLE-USE MASKS BE PURCHASED?

USask will have masks available for colleges and units to purchase through their local stores (Facilities, Chemistry, Dentistry, HSSC, etc.) or through [purchases.usask.ca](https://purchases.usask.ca).

Colleges and units will need to order masks for their students, staff, and faculty members who will receive them from their College/Dept/Unit at no charge. The provision of masks for students is anticipated for spring and summer session only.



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