



# COVID-19 CAMPUS PROTOCOL UPDATE

## ABSTRACT

As the University continues to practice measures to keep the university community safe to ensure our shared health and wellbeing, NSCAD is communicating updated COVID-19 protocols.

NSCAD University  
Revision 3, April 2022

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UNIVERSITY

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## Campus Operation Principles

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In continuing the transition back to pre-pandemic in-person operations, NSCAD University's approach is informed by the following principles:

1. NSCAD's highest priority is to protect the health and safety of its community members (including students, faculty, staff, volunteers, alumni, and contractors) on our three campus sites (Fountain, Academy and Port). This protocol has been built to support that commitment, and in pursuit of the highest academic quality in our teaching, research, and service.
2. The objective is to indicate the best practices the sector has implemented throughout the pandemic and use these lessons to control airborne communicable illnesses, including influenza, colds, and SARS Cov2, etc.
3. NSCAD's COVID-19 protocols continue to be informed by public health and sector best practices.
4. All decision-making will be informed by public health directives and best evidence. The university will continue to work closely with the crisis management COVID-19 committee and members of the university community.
5. The university's approach to returning to campus will be both coordinated and incremental, as it continues to depend on public health directives. The plan continues to allow for the university to move the plan forward, backwards, or put on hold, as circumstances change and depending on current provincial directives.
6. The university will provide as much certainty as possible to students, staff and faculty by making and communicating decisions as quickly as possible.

### Key Guidance:

As we enter the phase of the campus response plan that allow for a reduction in restrictions, NSCAD expects all community members to be individually and collectively responsible for workplace health and safety. We encourage everyone to adopt a shared internal responsibility system for effective risk mitigation and to refer to our Code of Conduct addendum. We encourage members of the university community to not only adhere to the guidelines but be positive promoters of them as well.

All individuals on campus are expected to adhere to the health and safety directives as described in this protocol, as well as all health and safety directives recommended by local and provincial public health and the provincial and federal government including:

1. Do not come to campus if you have been or are feeling sick.
2. Do not come to campus if you are waiting for a COVID-19 test result or have been advised by Nova Scotia Public Health to self-isolate.

By coming to campus, you attest that you are feeling well and are not aware of any potential exposures to COVID-19.

### Masks:

Although Nova Scotia's mask mandate is no longer enforced by the government in the post-secondary education sector, mask requirements at NSCAD will continue until otherwise notified, as recommended by Public Health. NSCAD is firmly committed to upholding the health and safety of our community and will, in consideration of the provincial recommendation, decide on when mask requirements will change for our community.

- Masks continue to be required in all common spaces, though you may remove your mask when seated at your desk or workstation. **Common spaces include classrooms and studios.**
- If you have an office and would like people visiting your office to wear a mask, please make this clear through appropriate signage.
- Additional information on mask requirements is found in the On Campus Guidelines (on page 4).

### Vaccinations:

- Vaccinations will continue to be encouraged and promoted.
- As of May 1, students, faculty, and staff will not be required to provide proof of full vaccination to work and study on campus, although we will continue to

monitor health and safety risks to our community and will consider reinstating a vaccine requirement if necessary.

- NSCAD will continue to offer medical information to address vaccine hesitancy. We emphatically support vaccines and the importance of vaccination.
- Should they wish, faculty, staff and students can still provide their vaccination status [here](#).
- Out-of-province or international students who are not fully vaccinated prior to arriving will be able to get vaccinated at no cost to them once they arrive in Nova Scotia.

#### Testing:

- Rapid antigen test kits will continue be available at the NSCAD University Service Centre (Fountain Campus) to faculty, staff and student while supplies last.
- Testing will not be required for members of the university community who choose not to disclose their vaccination status.

## On Campus Guidelines

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### 1. Masks

Masks will continue to be required on campus.

Although the mask mandated was lifted in Nova Scotia in many areas, continued use of masks is still recommended by Nova Scotia Public Health. NSCAD University's mask protocol will remain in effect until at least June 30. At this time, NSCAD will again review the campus mask requirements. Until the university is satisfied with the safety implications of discontinuing the use of masks, the requirement will remain.

In order to limit COVID-19 spread within our campuses, masks are required if:

- You will be working within one (1) metre of another person.
- You are sitting in groups of eight (8) or more.
- You are walking through campus corridors, studios, etc.
- You are in a situation where a task or learning experience requires you to be physically close to another person.
- You are in physically confined areas such as elevators, hallways, stairwells, and washrooms where another person is or may be present.

Masks are not required in the following circumstances:

- When NSCAD community members are in their offices, studios spaces or other rooms by themselves or where adequate space can be maintained with other NSCAD community members.
- When professors and/or faculty are teaching, presenting or explaining.
- When students are asking a question in class, they may temporarily remove their mask for this purpose.
- When information is being orally presented where people rely on lip movement to understand.
- When a person is in the process of eating and/or drinking.

Some people may wish to wear masks as a personal preference on our campuses. We continue to support every individual's choice to wear a mask.

**In the event that proper personal protective equipment (PPE) is required for a specific task, that PPE must be used in replacement of the non-medical mask (e.g., N95).** If you have any questions about whether a mask or proper PPE is required in a particular studio, the area technicians or supervisor will be able to assist you.

Our NSCAD community members can expect mask-related communication, signage, and education until the university removes the masking requirement.

## 2. Physical Distancing

The university will continue to promote physical distancing, however no formal requirement for physical distancing will be in place.

## 3. Cleanliness / Sanitation

The routine cleaning of common touch points as well as general cleaning helps to reduce the buildup of bacteria / viruses and prevents their spread from person to person. NSCAD University cleaning staff will continue to address all high-touch areas as part of a move towards a go forward post-pandemic cleaning plan.

## 4. Symptoms and Campus Access

If you feel unwell, stay home.

**If you have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19:**

Follow testing and self-isolation instructions at [nshealth.ca/coronavirus](https://nshealth.ca/coronavirus).

### **If you test positive for COVID-19:**

*Students:* Reach out directly to your instructor and/or division chair/director so they can provide you with support during your illness and missed classes and notify OHS (OHS@nscad.ca)

*Faculty and staff:* Notify your supervisor and Occupational Health & Safety at [OHS@nscad.ca](mailto:OHS@nscad.ca).

Follow provincial instructions at [nshealth.ca/i-have-tested-positive](https://nshealth.ca/i-have-tested-positive).

Complete the [Nova Scotia Report and Screening form](#) to help identify if additional supports are needed.

### **If you need proof-of-recovery from COVID-19:**

Visit [covid-recovery-letter.novascotia.ca/](https://covid-recovery-letter.novascotia.ca/)

## 5. Accommodation and Support

We recognize some staff and students may require accommodation as part of their individual needs on campus. Employees with a circumstance that may require accommodation should reach out to [humanresources@nscad.ca](mailto:humanresources@nscad.ca)

Students requiring assistance can continue to access support through the Office of Opportunity and Belonging by contacting [belong@nscad.ca](mailto:belong@nscad.ca).

Additional resources for staff and students can be found on our [Mental Health and Wellbeing: Our Response](#) and through the [additional COVID-19 OHS resources](#). We encourage all employees and students to utilize these resources as needed.

## 6. Self-Assessment

NSCAD community members are expected to self-screen before departing their household for campus for symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms are present, they should follow the current guidance from Nova Scotia Public Health, plus refrain from traveling to campus and, for staff, faculty and students, to notify their manager, supervisor, or instructor.

## 7. Occupational Health and Safety Program

COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance and effectiveness of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) program within our NSCAD community and embedding these infection control activities within the workplace OHS initiatives is a valuable learning.

During the period of COVID-19, NSCAD created an [addendum to the Code of Conduct](#) to address expectations for the NSCAD community's behaviours relevant to COVID-19. The university, through the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC), also enhanced significantly the NSCAD OHS program and will continue to update it with practices developed through lessons learned during the pandemic.

Since 2020, the JOHSC has been monitoring campus activity as it relates to protocols in place to combat the spread of the virus. For example, the JOHSC developed and implemented a COVID-19-specific safety inspection for all three campuses and will continue to learn from Nova Scotia Public Health guidance on evolving best practices.

Our university is committed to sustainable diligence to better control communicable diseases within the NSCAD community.

## Monitoring and Communicating COVID-19 Protocols

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Everyone must be flexible and considerate as we move forward together.

It is critical to maintain and adapt our planning as the pandemic's situation changes. We also appreciate the importance of communicating our protocols to the NSCAD community frequently, and will err on the side of over-communication to support ongoing transparency.