MEMO

To: SPH Students, and instructors

From: Dr. George Mutwiri, Interim Executive Director

RE: COVID 19 Protocols and Mask Mandate

Being a School of Public Health (SPH), prevention of disease and health promotion is our number 1 priority. As members of the public health community on campus, we are expected to be leaders in matters of public health. In this regard, I encourage all of you to familiarize yourself, and comply, with all USask COVID-19 safety protocols.

The University of Saskatchewan has instituted the following COVID-19 safety protocols:

https://covid19.usask.ca/about/safety.php#Expectations

The University of Saskatchewan has instituted the following mask mandate:

https://covid19.usask.ca/working-on-campus/ppes.php#Masks

If you will be attending in-person classes on campus there are additional precautions you need to be aware of. While all students and instructors in the School of Public Health are expected to wear a mask at all times, there may be situations where an instructor may be granted an EXEMPTION from wearing a mask.

For students who will be attending the in-person section of these courses you are expected to follow the following guidelines.

1. Show up to your class wearing a 3-ply non-medical mask in the proper fashion. If you do not have a 3 ply non-medical mask when you arrive one will be provided for you. If you do not have a 3 ply non-medical mask on when you arrive you will be reminded that one must be worn and will be requested to put one on. If you refuse to wear a 3 ply non-medical mask, you will be asked to remove yourself from the classroom and will not be able to return until you comply with the mask mandate. If you do not self-remove you will be reported.

https://teaching.usask.ca/remote-teaching/masking-policy.php
2. The mask must remain in place until you have returned to the outdoors.
3. You will be provided with disinfecting wipes and asked to wipe any high touch surfaces that you may have encountered. (Such as computers, microphones, etc.)

If you are sick, it is imperative that you stay home and do not spread your illness. Even if it is not COVID-19, please stay home and monitor your symptoms. It is mandatory that you should be symptom-free for 48 hours prior to returning to campus.

If you are experiencing symptoms, you may use the guide at this link to assess yourself: https://covid19.usask.ca/about/safety.php#Feelingsick

If you have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 contact the University immediately by following the self-reporting guidelines at this link: https://covid19.usask.ca/about/testing-tracking.php#SelfReportingconfirmedorsuspectedcases

Mask Exemption Policy

For faculty who have been granted an exemption to wearing a mask, please observe the following conditions.

1. The instructor will discuss their rationale for teaching without a mask at the first available opportunity and will inform you in advance of the mask removal.
2. Removal of the mask is limited to a maximum of 90 minutes. This limit is in place to limit the potential for particulate build up in the space.
3. The instructor must be fully vaccinated (i.e., more than two weeks from their second vaccination).
4. The instructor must remain (when unmasked) a minimum of 3 meters (10 feet) from students.
5. Students in the class are encouraged to talk to the instructor if they have any concerns. Alternatively, any student can contact me directly (Dr. G. Mutwiri, Interim Executive Director), if you have safety concerns about the instructor being unmasked.

If you have any questions or concerns about the above information, please do not hesitate to email my assistant who can set up a meeting to discuss your concerns. Please email Darla Mitchell at sph.admin@usask.ca.