



June 2022

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(Photo by Daria Perevezentsev)

New Items

Fall Planning and Mask Requirement

Masks will continue to be required in classrooms and in indoor spaces where physical distancing of at least two (2 metres) cannot be maintained until June 30, 2022. For a list of exemptions, please review the [Joint Provostial and Human Resources Guideline on Face Masks](#) and further details in Chapter 6 of the [COVID-19 General Workplace Guideline](#).

As of July 1, 2022, the University's mask requirement will be lifted subject to any changes in public health guidance. Some members of our community may choose to continue to wear a mask after July 1. We ask everyone to respect each other's decisions, comfort levels, and health needs.

As of May 1, 2022, health screening and contact tracing is not available in UCheck. Although health screening through UCheck is unavailable, individuals can monitor their health using the [Provincial health screening tool](#). Completing a health screening before coming to campus is highly recommended, and we continue to ask members of our community to remain at home if they are ill.

For additional support and resources, please see [UTogether](#).

Medical Mask Distribution Points

Medical masks are available for pickup on all three campuses to community members with an active UTORID as supplies allow. An additional distribution point has been added at the ground floor (across from the Second Cup) of the Koffler Student Services Centre and at the main floor (near the main floor entrance) of Sidney Smith Hall. For a list of locations, please see [Information about Masks](#).

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COVID-19 Signage Update

Please see updated [COVID-19 Precaution/Symptoms Poster](#) and [COVID-19 Entry Mask Poster](#) on our [COVID-19 Posters & Resources Page](#). At this time, you may now remove and store signage put up in response to unit GATs where applicable, such as maximum occupancy limits and traffic flow signage.

Ventilation

The University implemented a sector-leading ventilation strategy that includes improvements to existing ventilation systems that service all parts of buildings, including classrooms, labs, offices, meeting rooms, and hallways. Further to this, air-change assessments have met a high-ventilation target in all classrooms that are in use. These exceptional ventilation standards will continue. See [U of T's HVAC strategy website](#) for more information.

Ventilation Information Request (by building)

As mentioned in previous communications, the University has developed and implemented a [Tri-campus HVAC Strategy](#) as part of an overall ventilation approach for both instructional and non-instructional spaces and buildings. As part of the [Strategy](#), where applicable, measures have been taken to increase ventilation (e.g. performing air flushing two hours before occupancy every morning and upgrade filtration) and upgrading ventilation.

The upgraded filters, which meet public health and other experts' recommendations, are rated MERV-13, up from MERV-8 previously. Same as before the pandemic, the University continues to maintain our ventilation systems on a regular basis. If additional information on ventilation is required, please contact your JHSC with the request. Please note that such requests may require **weeks** to complete depending on the size and complexity of the ventilation system. In the interim, locations can be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

COVID-19 Reminders

COVID-19 Resources

[UTogether](#) is a one-stop hub of information on how the University is responding to the pandemic, as we work toward a safe return to our campuses. [UTogether: A Roadmap for the University of Toronto](#) covers some important ways the University is promoting health and safety, advancing academic excellence and meeting the needs of our community as we navigate COVID-19. For all the latest information please check the [UTogether](#), [Safe Return](#), and [Roadmap](#) websites.

The University of Toronto continually updates our [frequently asked questions](#) related to COVID-19 and our community.

COVID-19 F&S Strategies

The University of Toronto is committed first and foremost to the health and safety of our entire community. To achieve this, the University has developed F&S COVID-19 Strategies.

Please see University of Toronto's [COVID-19 Caretaking Tri-Campus Strategy](#) and [COVID-19 heating, ventilation and air conditioning \(HVAC\) strategy](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Safety List

The province entered the Roadmap Exit Step of its Reopening Plan on March 1, 2022, and as a result, many public health restrictions have been relaxed or removed. With the removal of these measures by the province, the University has suspended the use of the General Assessment Tool (GAT), the EAT (Event Assessment Tools), the SAT (Student Society General Assessment Tool) and the SEAT (Student Society Event Assessment Tool). In their place, organizers of on-campus activities can use the [COVID-19 Safety List](#) in their planning. This list and any related policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. For additional resources, please see [EHS COVID-19 Information](#).

University of Toronto's General Workplace Guidelines

The University's [COVID-19 General Workplace Guidelines](#) (GWG) was sent out to JHSC co-chairs on July 10, 2020. Ongoing updates are made to this document to align with provincial and public health guidelines. While drafting, reviewing and approval of institutional guidelines is an employer responsibility, we encourage the JHSCs to read the document and welcome you to engage with management through your usual channels on any queries or recommendations you may have with respect to the application of the Guideline to worksites within your JHSC's jurisdiction.

You may access the most updated version of the GWG on the EHS [COVID-19 Information](#) webpage. Please also review [Returning to Campus - The Division of People Strategy, Equity & Culture](#) for more information regarding returning to campus. We encourage JHSC members to review and submit any questions or considerations to [EHS JHSC](#).

Legionella and Ventilation Testing

We encourage interested JHSCs to regularly check the [Water Testing Schedule](#) for the most up-to-date information on legionella testing in their building and to contact [EHS JHSC](#) if a JHSC worker member is interested in attending the beginning of legionella and/or ventilation testing.

With regards to the query about JHSC consultation and provision of reports for ventilation measurements, the type of measurements collected in the air audit report do not provide a direct measurement of COVID-19 transmissibility risk but are measurements that the University collects as part of regular building maintenance to verify that the relevant equipment is operating as expected. We understand that during the pandemic, staff, faculty and students may want more information about building maintenance related data and we are therefore sharing this information as requested and we invite JHSCs who wish to attend, when these measurements are taken, to contact [EHS JHSC](#) for building level schedules.

Ongoing Reminders

JHSC Newsletter Webpage

For your reference, all previously sent JHSC newsletters can be accessed [here](#).

JHSC Minutes & Inspection Reports

As a reminder, please send all minutes and inspection reports to [EHS JHSC](#). If you have not submitted your minutes/workplace inspections for 2021 yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Health and Safety Boards

EHS is conducting its annual audits of health and safety boards on campuses, and updating/removing applicable items. Please inform EHS when boards have been installed, relocated, or removed. [A list of required postings](#) and links for download is available from the EHS webpage.

Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Work

Type 3 asbestos abatement air sampling results are available on the Asbestos Data website. For more information, please see [Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Information](#).

Important Policies

We encourage the JHSCs to review the following policies regularly: [Policy with Respect to Workplace Harassment](#), [Policy with Respect to Workplace Violence](#), and [Health and Safety Policy](#).

Safety Training

The University offers numerous training courses for its employees, specific to their workplace context (Administration/Facilities & Lab Environments) and regularly updates the training courses on an ongoing basis. We encourage the JHSCs to review our training offerings relevant to their specific work and welcome the JHSCs to provide us with any feedback regarding training content.

If you have any questions regarding relevant training required for your specific work, please speak with your supervisor. If you have any questions regarding EHS-offered training courses and related University-developed training content, please contact [EHS JHSC](#).

EHS JHSC SharePoint & Tutorial

The EHS JHSC Module has been phased out and replaced with the [EHS JHSC SharePoint](#). **Please note, all JHSC members will automatically receive an email once minutes/workplace inspections are uploaded to the JHSC SharePoint.** The "Other Reports and Documents" tab will include sampling reports or other applicable JHSC documents. Please [click here](#) for a tutorial on how to use the new EHS JHSC SharePoint. For more information or questions, please contact [EHS JHSC](#).

CUPE3902 Unit 1 and Unit 3 Reimbursement

To request for reimbursement for JHSC related activities, please complete the [CUPE3902 Unit 1 and Unit 3 Pay Request Form](#), obtain approval from the manager co-chair and forward a copy to ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca and ilo@cupe3902.org.

F&S Service Alerts

To receive alerts for planned and unplanned services and shutdowns for your building, please sign up for [F&S Alerts](#).

Interested in joining a Joint Health and Safety Committee?

Please contact [your JHSC](#) for any vacancies. As a reminder, in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, worker members are appointed by their respective union. For more information, please see [JHSC FAQs](#) or contact [EHS JHSC](#).