

Re: Ingram School of Nursing (ISoN) mask requirements and COVID boosters

August 24, 2022

Dear members of the Ingram School of Nursing (ISoN) community,

While we are no longer at the height of the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to affect all of us. As a school of health professionals, we have a heightened responsibility to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19, particularly between colleagues on the McGill University campus and patients and caregivers in clinical sites. To that end, this is an important message on the COVID-19 safety measures currently in effect in ISoN, specifically, mask requirements and COVID boosters. These are in addition to the Dean's directive on this topic, which were sent yesterday.

The safety of our students, faculty, staff, clinical partners, patients, and patients' families continue to be of the utmost importance as COVID-19 remains with us. Therefore, I ask for your collaboration in complying with the masking requirements and vaccination recommendations outlined below.

(1) MASK REQUIREMENTS**Students**

Students are required to wear masks at all times on ISoN premises and other sites of learning, including in classrooms, hallways, labs, group-learning settings and all common areas, except when eating or drinking, when a distance of two metres between individuals is required. Mask dispensers and hand sanitizers will continue to be available at different sites on campus. Keep in mind that masks are to be changed after four hours in order to continue to be effective.

Faculty

Faculty are required to wear masks in classrooms and hallways unless, when teaching, they are 2 metres or more distant from students. Faculty may remove masks in faculty/staff-only meetings in which a 2-meter distance can be maintained among attendees. Masks are optional in personal offices. Anywhere food or drinks are being consumed, a 2-meter distance must be maintained.

Staff

Administrative staff are required to wear masks in classrooms, hallways, and all common areas. Special attention to masking must be taken when meeting students in closed spaces similar to a classroom or smaller (e.g., NSAO advising students).

Clinical settings

All learning activities in our clinical settings fall under the purview of the clinical setting directives and, at this time, mask wearing remains mandatory.

(2) COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

While ISoN is not requiring proof of vaccination booster(s) at this time (which may change in future), all members of the ISoN community are strongly encouraged to strengthen their immunity with a booster COVID-19 vaccine, especially if their last dose of vaccine was more than five months ago or they tested COVID + more than three months ago. To help with decision-making as to when to get a COVID-19 booster, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) has developed a useful tool available [here](#).

Why is it important to get a booster dose?

- Healthcare workers are more exposed to COVID-19;
- Reduce the risk of transmission to others;
- Vaccination reduces the severity of COVID-19 and the risk of COVID-19 complications such as long COVID.

Where can I can get vaccinated?

- Consult the MSSS' [Clic Santé site](#) to book an appointment at a vaccination site of your choice.

Please note that we are monitoring MSSS, Public Health, McGill, and clinical partner directives regularly to ensure ISoN members are compliant and students are not put at risk of missing clinical days unnecessarily.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy start to the academic year,



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