

## USask College of Engineering Biosecurity Protocol – January 1, 2021

The following are requirements and “recommendations” for entering and working within the College of Engineering. “Requirements” must be adhered to while you may use your best judgement when considering “recommendations”.

*Note: You may want to assume that you are a virus carrier and that a virus carrier has followed the same path you are following a few minutes earlier. These assumptions should guide your actions in a manner that maximizes your safety and the safety of others.*

- The University requires that each person entering the University of Saskatchewan campus must have completed and passed the COVID 19 Health and Safety Course as well as the on-line WHMIS course as they will be handling cleaning supplies. (<https://safetyresources.usask.ca/>)
- We are *recommending* that you ensure you have not been in contact with anyone with flu like symptoms for at least 72 hrs.
- The University requires that you complete the USask COVID 19 self-check list daily and that you have not had any COVID 19 symptoms in the past 72 hrs
- We *recommend* that you shower in hot water and soap and then wear freshly washed clothes to campus (clothes washed in hot water and detergent and dried on high heat setting as per the Provincial Guidelines).
  - <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/guidance-for-health-care-facilities/cleaning-and-disinfecting-public-facilities>
  - <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/covid-19-mitigation-measures>
- We *recommend* that winter jackets be washed if possible. Alternatively, different jackets could be worn on alternate days and the jackets stored as assumed contaminated. If neither of these options are possible, we ask that you understand that jackets can be carriers of the virus, particularly if your activities are such that you are in proximity of others that are speaking, coughing or sneezing such as public transport, children’s events, etc.
- We require that travel to the University of Saskatchewan should be direct with no stops in between, except for short stops (e.g., dropping off kids) where you have limited contact with anyone outside your household.
- We *recommend* that travel from the University of Saskatchewan to your home should be direct with no stops in between.
- We *recommend* that you disinfect vehicle door handles, keys, steering wheel, bike handles and any other contacted surface before driving the vehicle to travel to the UoF. Particularly if the vehicle is shared usage.
- Individuals using public transport may wish to take additional precautions such as carrying a change of clothes. We strongly *recommend* that you wear a mask and adhere to separation distancing while using public transit.

- The College of Engineering will provide five (5) machine washable masks for those entering the building to conduct research activities. The University requires that you wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth when entering the building, moving through the building, in all public spaces and in any rooms that have multiple occupancy to limit potential deposition of material from people’s respiratory system. Wearing masks are required at workstations or laboratory bench locations in all shared spaces. Masks should be constructed as per the Province of Saskatchewan recommendations:
  - <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/guidance-on-homemade-masks>
  - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html>
  - Addition information can be found through the American Chemical Society COVID 19 Research Web Page ([https://pubs.acs.org/page/vi/chemistry\\_coronavirus\\_research](https://pubs.acs.org/page/vi/chemistry_coronavirus_research)) in articles such as:
    - Konda et al. (2020) - *Aerosol Filtration Efficiency of Common Fabrics Used in Respiratory Cloth Masks*
- Lunch rooms where masks are removed to eat, must accommodate a 3m separation distance between individuals. Lunch room occupancies will be posted on the door of each designated room and everyone is required to adhere to these limits.
- We *recommend* that you disinfect door handles, keys, key pads and any other contacted surfaces on the way in and the way out of the Engineering Building with alcohol, peroxide wipes or similar approved disinfectant. We also *recommend* that you disinfect door handles, contact points on doors and keys before and after using each passage way.
- We require that you text “enter” to 1-306-900-9602 when you enter the building.
- The College requires that you limit activities to the most direct route possible between entering the building and the room indicated on the permission to access permit. You are also required to limit your activities to the most direct route when moving from your work area to washroom facilities, acquiring materials and supplies, taking breaks, etc.
- The Engineering Building has been divided into 6 zones. You will be given a map of the zone you have permission to access and are required to limit your activities to that zone only.
  - College of Engineering staff technicians and staff engineers are allowed to cross zone boundaries if deemed necessary in performance of their duties. They are required to wear a mask over their mouth and nose, observe social distancing and keep a work log of any zone boundary crossings.
- We *recommend* that you disinfect the vehicle doors, handles, steering wheel etc after returning home, particularly if there is shared use of the vehicle.
- Upon arriving home, and before making contact with anyone in the home, we strongly *recommend* that you:
  - Immediately remove the clothing worn to the University of Saskatchewan and wash the clothes in hot water and detergent and dry them on high heat setting as per Provincial Guidelines,

- Immediately have a hot shower prior to contact with other individuals in the home. (degreasing agents like dish soap and shampoo are reported to disrupt the casing of the virus)
- General:
  - If there are more than one individual accessing a particular space, it is required that they remain at the recommended social distance, wear a mask and disinfect any shared surfaces.
    - Wearing of gloves will eliminate the potential for virus being carried under fingernails etc., but be aware that the gloves themselves can then be the transfer mechanism. Gloves should be changed often. Frequent and thorough hand washing is still recommended as the most effective method of limiting virus transfer.
  - It is *recommended* to avoid using cell phones, headphones or any other devices that can become contaminated surfaces and potential vectors for the virus. If you must use a cell phone, head phones or any devices that contact the face, it should be disinfected before and after use.
  - There are likely also unique requirements/considerations for each situation, please contact your supervisor or the College if you have questions.