

Teaching With a Mask

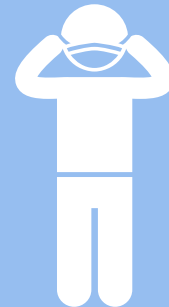


This resource is to provide instructors with some considerations for maintaining the effectiveness of their teaching while wearing a mask.

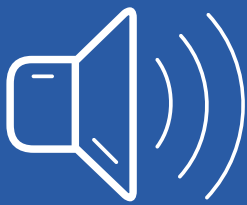
For updates on Memorial's return to campus plans, check the [COVID 19 Information Hub](#). Memorial continues to adhere to public health guidelines during the pandemic.

Optimizing Facial Expression

When teaching while wearing a mask, do your best to face your students while speaking and use direct eye contact when possible. Be mindful of your body language as it can provide additional cues to help with comprehension and understanding of what is spoken. When engaging in discussions, establish an appropriate gesture (i.e. hand raise) with your students so everyone knows who and when someone else is speaking. Remind your students that they too should speak slowly and loudly to be heard by the rest of the class. In larger classrooms where students are not facing each other, you may consider repeating/paraphrasing what the student said.



Projecting Voice and Volume



Speaking while wearing a mask muffles sound and doing so for a prolonged period of time can be tiring. It is important to speak slowly and clearly articulate all words. It helps to check the fit of a mask and practice instruction prior to class. While practicing, it is helpful to test speaking volume as not all teaching spaces are equipped with microphones and audio devices. Placing a recording device in various locations in a room can help determine the speaking volume that will be heard by all in the room. If a microphone is available, use it. If a microphone is required, contact [CITL Classroom Support](#).

Mixing Different Ways to Present Content During Class

While teaching on campus wearing a mask, instructors can consider different ways of presenting course content, such as recorded lectures, closed-captioned PowerPoint, and video resources. These artifacts can serve as great resources for students if later added to a Brightspace course site while continuing to teach in-person. [CITL has many resources to help with these different ways.](#)



Setting Expectations for Students



Instructor communication of the university's policy on mask wearing to students ensures safety and comfort for better learning in physical environments. Also, it helps to remind students that Memorial continues to follow the public health guidelines on the COVID-19 pandemic. Instructors can consider doing this during the first class and [adding a statement in the course syllabus](#).

Addressing the Need for Accommodations

While everyone is required to wear a mask, some instructors and students may require an accommodation. Instructors should discuss their need for accommodation with their unit head. For students requiring an accommodation, instructors can direct them to [Blundon Centre](#).



References

- [How to Teach F2F With a Mask and Create Caring Classrooms \(Inside Higher Ed\)](#)
- [Mask Recommendations and Tips for Teaching in a Mask \(Wake Forest University\)](#)
- [Teaching While Wearing a Mask: Video \(East Carolina University\)](#)

For more information about teaching with a mask, please contact CITL's Support Centre.
citl.mun.ca/support