

## **Mask Wearing, Screening and door opening at Columbia College effective 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

On July 1, the Government of Alberta lifted most public health restrictions as part of its Open for Summer plan. Masks are still required on public transit and in health-care settings, and individuals with a confirmed case of COVID-19 must still quarantine. All other public health restrictions have eased.

This week, city councillors voted to repeal the mask bylaw in Calgary. Mandatory masks had been required in all public buildings and businesses in our city since last August.

### **What does this mean for Columbia College?**

As we previously shared, Columbia College is aligning regulations on the wearing of masks with provincial and city public health measures. The city and province have both lifted their mandatory mask requirements. In alignment with this, mask use will no longer be mandatory at Columbia College.

While masks are no longer required at Columbia College, individuals can still opt to wear them based on their own comfort level. Mask use is an individual choice, and no one should feel discouraged from using them. However, the college does recommend the wearing of masks when you are unable to socially distance.

Columbia College faculty, staff and students will still be expected to wear masks when attending Dental and Health Care Programs Departments. Beyond these examples, mask use is now no longer compulsory when accessing Columbia College buildings. We will be updating our website and signage to reflect this change.

Screening is no longer required at the college with the exception of the Dental and Health Care Programs departments due to regulatory and advisory board's directives. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or not vaccinated (either partially or not at all) and have been in contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 individual, you must follow all Public Health quarantine and reporting guidelines. You may not come into the college.

Doors to all buildings will remain locked until further notice. Please refer to instructions posted on the building doors in regards to access.

### **Vaccination remains key**

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19. Vaccines are proven to save lives and ensure the safety of our health-care system. Current research is showing that if individuals choose not be vaccinated this may allow the variant strains to take hold and to continue to mutate and therefore become a greater threat to everyone, resulting in more hospitalizations and severe outcomes. Currently, 73.5 per cent of all Albertans over the age of 12 have received at least one vaccine dose, while 49.6 per cent of the eligible population are now fully vaccinated.

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to book your vaccination: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/page17295.aspx>