

# COVID-19 updates for January 13, 2022:

## Updated BCCDC Mask Information

On January 10, 2022, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) updated their [mask information](#) for the public. Masks are one of many layers of protection used in post-secondary classrooms and workplaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- All types of masks help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 when they fit comfortably over the mouth and nose with no gaps around the face.
- In healthcare and other workplace settings, respirators (e.g., N95, KN95, or CAN95) are specially fitted to each person, but in public settings, this is not needed.
- Respirators and medical masks may provide better protection than other masks when worn correctly and consistently.
- Individuals are advised to choose the mask that is best for them, depending on ability to wear comfortably, affordability, and individual risk.

## COVID-19 Safety Plan Exemption for Post-secondary Institutions

In a [media briefing on January 7, 2022](#) (*see timestamp 6 mins 30 sec*) the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) announced that business owners are to implement COVID-19 safety plans that are appropriate for this phase of the pandemic where much of the population is immunized and business continuity is a priority.

- Educational settings (K-12 and post-secondary institutions) and healthcare facilities are exempt from this requirement because detailed COVID-19 protocols have already been developed to address COVID-19 related risks, in close collaboration with staff from the PHO.
- A new PHO order on workplace safety is currently under development and will provide written confirmation of this exemption.