
GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

COVID-19 AWARENESS

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE –2021/2022



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What is COVID-19

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to serious respiratory infections.

- COVID-19 Symptoms are: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, trouble swallowing, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, not feeling well, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.
- Disease symptoms may be different, depending on age. Children and older adults with COVID-19, may also have non-specific symptoms, such as: disorientation, confusion, sleeping more than usual, muscle aches, dizziness, weakness or falls, chills and headaches.

Source: toronto.ca/home/covid-19

- The Government of Ontario has developed an online COVID-19 self-assessment tool, with guidance of what to do if you have symptoms.

[Click Here to Take the Self-Assessment](#)

How is it Transmitted?

- COVID-19 is mainly transmitted from person to person, through droplets, close contact, and indirect contact.
- WHO estimates that 1 person can infect an average of 2.5 people.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- People with the virus in their noses and throats may leave infected droplets on objects and surfaces when they sneeze, cough on, or touch surfaces, such as tables, doorknobs and handrails. Other people may become infected by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, noses or mouths before cleaning their hands.

The Period of Incubation

- The “incubation period” is the time between catching the virus and beginning to have symptoms of the disease.
- The World Health Organization estimates the incubation can be up to 14 days
- Symptoms usually appear after 5 days for some people

Asymptomatic Cases

- Estimates suggest that about 80% of people with COVID-19 will show mild or no symptoms at all.
- People with COVID-19 who show no symptoms case can still spread the disease to others.

Source: WHO, Anderson et al. (2020)

COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOCs)

- Variants are viruses that have changed or mutated from the original strain
- A variant becomes a variant of concern when its changes have a clinical or public health significance
- A number of COVID-19 variants of concern have been identified
- Variants of concern may:
 - be more contagious
 - cause more serious health effects in a wide range of people
 - have a risk of re-infection
 - not be easily detected by diagnostic tests, or
 - be problematic because there is no approved vaccine against illness and transmission of the disease.

COVID-19 Vaccines

- Vaccines provide protection against the COVID-19 virus and variants.
- They enhance the body's natural ability to fight infection and reduce the risk of transmission.
- Vaccines are safe. Health Canada authorizes vaccines only when there is sufficient scientific and clinical evidence that they are safe, effective, and are manufactured to the highest quality standard.
- For more information about vaccines, including where to get one, click below to visit the [Government of Ontario website](#)
- While vaccines to prevent COVID-19 are the best hope for ending the pandemic, they do not provide complete protection on their own.
- There is a small chance that you may still get COVID-19 after vaccination.
- It is important to continue to follow public health measures until more people are vaccinated.

GBC's COVID-19 Vaccine Policy

Effective September 7, 2021, GBC is implementing a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy, in accordance with the Government of Ontario's directive.

As we welcome you back to campus, we require employees and students to do one of the following:

- Provide verification of full vaccination; or
- Provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 rapid test administered within 48 hours of entry, or have such a test performed on site, and have a negative result.

Any individual who cannot be vaccinated based on medical, religious, creed, or other grounds recognized by the Ontario Human Rights Code can request an accommodation which would be submitted directly to the third-party service provider. Those with an accommodation would be required to follow additional strict health protocols including regular rapid testing.

For more information about the vaccination policy, visit the [GBC website](#).

GBC Response to COVID-19

Building Preparations & Access

COVID-19 prevention measures implemented at the college have been informed by health and safety guidelines and recommendations set forth by Public Health agencies, the Government of Ontario, and the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario.

These include:

- **Ventilation:** HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems across the college have been reviewed to ensure they meet the required standards. Air quality testing has also been conducted on all campuses.
- **Capacity limits and physical distancing:** To reduce the number of people on campus, programs continue to be delivered in both online and hybrid formats. We are also offering select student services online and in person, to provide more flexibility. Capacity limits are in place for smaller spaces on campus.

Along with capacity limits on campus, we require physical distancing of at least six metres in college buildings. When six metres of physical distance can't be achieved (in labs, clinics and other smaller spaces) enhanced PPE (including eye protection) is mandatory. Plexiglass barriers are also in place in various areas around campus.

- **Signage and wayfinding:** Signage outlining our COVID-19 protocols and room capacity limits are posted throughout our buildings, along with wayfinding and directional decals.
- **Cleaning and disinfection:** We've increased cleaning frequency and we're using hospital-grade disinfectant in common areas and on work surfaces. All shared equipment, devices, tools,

materials and supplies are disinfected between use. Disinfecting spray and cloths are provided to wipe down all shared equipment.

- **Hand washing and sanitization:** Additional hand sanitization stations have been made available across campuses.
- **Mask and PPE** - Masks must be worn in all indoor spaces, and in smaller spaces we also require eye protection. Masks and face shields are provided at campus entrances if you forget your gear. Additional PPE may be required, and provided, for specific programs or courses.
- Prior to a lab, classroom, shared office, eating area or other space being used by employees or students, the college completes a review of the area to ensure infection control protocols are in place.
- **Building Access** - Most GBC programs will be delivered online for the Fall 2021 Semester. The college is currently limiting building access to students registered for on-campus classes, employees and contractors performing essential work, and a limited number of members of the public, such as clients in the Wave Clinic.

Health Screening & Rapid COVID-19 Testing

- Health screening is required each day you are going to be on campus.
- Rapid COVID-19 testing is available at Casa Loma, St. James and Waterfront campuses. Testing is quick, easy, voluntary and available at no cost to employees, students, clients, and contractors entering our campuses. Employees and students who are on campus are encouraged to take advantage of this service and get tested regularly.
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, test positive on a rapid test, or have been advised by Public Health to isolate, please notify the college right away.
- Employees must notify COVID19reporting@georgebrown.ca
- Students must report through georgebrown.ca/letstalkcovid19

Preparing Employees and Students

- COVID-19 Awareness Training has been developed for employees and students and must be completed prior to entry on campus.
- Each academic program and department reviews safe work practices with employees and students.
- The College provides ongoing communication to all employees and students on updates to COVID-19 protocols and cases on campus.

Monitoring & COVID-19 Response

Monitoring

- Wellness Ambassadors are on campus to help everyone stay safe. They encourage and remind everyone to follow the COVID-19 prevention measures. They are also available to answer questions about COVID-19 protocols.

COVID-19 Response

- The College supports employees and students reporting COVID-19 illness and exposure. This includes, contacting the affected individual, investigating possible risks to the college community, advising of isolation requirements, and referring to Public Health.
- Case Management and contact tracing is conducted in accordance with Public Health requirements.
- We inform the George Brown College community whenever a positive case is reported on campus. Individual privacy is protected at all times.

Mental Health Support

All students can find wellness support on GBC's website on the COVID-19 information for Students page, where several topics are addressed, including:

- Mental health during COVID-19
- Financial Supports
- Online privacy
- Summer and Fall semester
- International students

All registered students are able to access free, confidential mental health support through GBC Counselling & Student Well-Being. For more information see our [Webpage](#) or email Letstalk@georgebrown.ca.

All employees, full-time and non-full-time, and their family members needing support can access our Employee and Family Assistance Plan (EFAP) provider, Morneau Shepell, at 1-866-833-7690.

Morneau Shepell offers resources on:

- Maintaining your mental well-being
- Physical well-being
- Self-isolation
- Working during the outbreak

Returning to Campus

Returning to Campus

- Monitor your health and stay home if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- The College will support you if you need to self-isolate

How will GBC Support if I need to self-Isolate?

- Being in isolation doesn't mean that you cannot work or study. GBC is committed to support employees and students that need to be in self-isolation.
- Employees should talk to their manager if they are planning to travel outside of Canada or if they need to be in isolation. Remote working arrangements will be made when possible. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Employee Accommodations for medical, personal, or family reasons must be directed to Human Resources or the Manager, Disability and Accommodation.
- Students should talk to their faculty if they are planning to travel outside of Canada or if they need to be in isolation. Special arrangements will be made when possible. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Make sure you have everything you need to gain entry and to learn and work safely on campus, including:

- One-time COVID-19 awareness training
- Daily COVID-19 health screening
- Digital student/employee ID ready-to-go, either printed or available on the GBC app
- PPE (mask and eye protection) packed and ready
- Packed lunch and water (campus food services are closed, and water filling stations are unavailable)

Participate in Rapid Testing: Rapid testing for COVID-19 is available at all campuses for employees, students, contractors, clients and anyone entering GBC buildings

- Results are 98.1% accurate
- Results are available in as little as 15 minutes
- Clinic hours: Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

At the College

Physical Distancing

Maintain a distance of 2 meters between yourself and others.

Understand what you can do to help maintain physical distancing:

Students and Employees Responsibilities

- Stay 6 feet apart from others as much as possible.
- Stay in assigned labs, classrooms, workstations and allowed public spaces.
- Avoid unnecessary on-site visits.
- Stay at the College for the duration of the class or work shift only.
- Avoid common greetings, such as handshakes (waving hello from a safe distance, is acceptable).
- Follow-the way finding signs to avoid bumping into someone and close contacts with others.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Stagger start times or other on-site activities such as site visits, breaks, lunch, meetings, among team members.
- Assign work in different areas to avoid physical contact.
- Be mindful of the amount of available space, furniture arrangements and the number of people in a space.
- Limit the movement of employees on-campus.
- Plan and map out the work area(s), nearest washroom, eating area(s), break room(s), emergency exit(s), etc. that you and your team will access.
- Report all areas the team plans to visit while signing in with Security.
- Ensure your team accesses only those pre-determined areas.

Faculty Responsibilities

- Assign learning activities in different areas to avoid physical contact.
- Be mindful of the amount of available space, furniture arrangements and the number of students in a space.
- Encourage the students to limit their movement on-campus.
- Remind the student of learning area(s), nearest washroom, eating area(s), break room(s), emergency exit(s), etc. that students can access.

Remember General Hygiene

Do your part to help keep our work and learning spaces clean

- The cleaning team is responsible for frequently disinfecting indoor spaces that are being used, but it is also a community effort.
- It is your responsibility (employees, faculty and students) to maintain your teaching, learning and working area in order to keep it accessible and clean. Please use the cleaning products and disinfectants made available to you. These disinfectants were selected because they are products that Health Canada believes are effective at limiting the transfer of COVID-19.
- Given that studies show that COVID-19 can survive a maximum of seven (7) days on some surfaces, we suggest that you wash or disinfect the surfaces before and after your activities.

Know and comply with your responsibilities regarding hygiene.

Students and Employees Responsibilities

- Wash hands often with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.
- Sanitize your work or learning space and equipment before and after use.
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve (if a tissue is used, it should be discarded immediately).
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid high-touch areas (e.g. phones, door handles, railings, etc.) if possible, or clean your hands after.
- Wear gloves as per usual practice (gloves are not a substitute for good hand hygiene).
- Access only the nearest or designated washroom, eating area(s), break room(s), etc.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Conduct regular Take 5 for Safety to remind team members to wash their hands often with soap and water, and provide an hand sanitizer if hand washing facilities are not nearby.
- Ensure the team knows about any new COVID-19 related process or protocols specific to your department.
Supply disinfecting wipes to clean their work area frequently.
- Remind the team to sneeze and cough into their sleeve, and provide tissues and a conveniently located waste bin to discard tissues.
- Continue to provide gloves as per usual practices, and remind employees that gloves are not a substitute for good hand hygiene.

Faculty Responsibilities

- Conduct a Take 5 for Safety to remind students of good hygiene etiquette and new COVID-19 hygiene protocols in the classroom or lab.
- Ensure cleaning product is available to clean learning stations frequently.

Wash Your Hands

Hand Hygiene is one of the best defenses against infection of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

When to sanitize or wash your hands:

- immediately upon entering the College;
- before touching your face, eyes, or mouth;
- before putting on your personal protective equipment (PPE) or face covering;
- before eating, drinking, or smoking (note that smoking is prohibited on all campuses);
- after removing your personal protective equipment (PPE) or your soiled clothing;
- after working on a surface touched by other people;
- after using a tool or equipment that is shared with other people; and
- after other personal body functions (e.g. sneezing, coughing).

Wash your hands with soap and water any time your hands are visibly soiled;

How to sanitize your hands video from Public Health Ontario: <https://youtu.be/sDUJ4CAyhpa>

How to wash your hands video from Public Health Ontario: <https://youtu.be/o9hjmques72I>

Take care of your hands: Remember that frequent hand washing and glove use can irritate skin, practice good skin care.

- Protect your hands against the cold.
- Don't wear rings
- If you are required to wear gloves, change them often
- Wear protective gloves when using cleaning products
- Choose hand sanitizers when possible
- Use a mild soap and lukewarm water if hands are soiled
- Dry your hands completely
- Apply moisturizer often

Remember Your Mask

- Wear a mask while on campus
- Your mask should cover your nose, mouth, and chin
- Disposable masks are available at campus entrances.

When to wear a mask:

- Non-medical face coverings are required in all situations where physical distancing cannot be achieved. This includes common spaces like hallways, elevators, stairwells, break rooms, and change rooms.
- Signs throughout the college will indicate the correct face coverings and personal protective equipment to wear in classrooms and labs. Academic divisions will also advise employees and students what protocols must be followed.

[Click here to watch a video on How to Wear a Face-Covering](#)

Know When to Wear Eye Protection

- Eye protection must be worn when physical distancing cannot be maintained
- You must also wear eye protection when you are in close rooms with others, such as labs, classrooms, and shared offices

When to Wear Eye Protection

While at the college, if you are working in a closed space with other people, eye protection is required. Eye protection includes safety glasses, goggles, and face shields. Glasses and goggles protect your eyes,

while a face shield protects your face (or part of it) from splashes, droplets and germs. Some eye protection can be worn over prescription glasses.

Eye protection must be used with face masks when there is a risk of close contact, to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Types of Eye Protection

- Face shields have a transparent window or visor that shields the face and associated mucous membranes (eyes, nose and mouth). It protects the wearer against exposure from splashes and sprays of body fluids. They are usually worn with other PPE, such as a medical mask, respirator or eyewear. Source: Health Canada
- Safety glasses with an appropriate CSA rating can protect from hazards including flying objects, particles, dust, heat, or sparks but need to be selected based on the hazards associated with the job task. Safety glasses provide some protection against splashes and infectious materials. Safety glasses can be worn under face shields. Source: CCOHS
- Goggles that fit snug around the eyes and have an appropriate CSA rating protect similar to safety glasses, but can also provide a higher level of protection from hazards like abrasive blasting materials, arc flash, or chemicals. Well fitting safety goggles can protect the wearer from mists, splashes, sprays, and respiratory droplets. Safety goggles can be worn under face shields. Source: CCOHS

How to Disinfect a Face Shield

- Wash or sanitize your hands.
- Place face shield on a table, with the outside of the shield facing up. Using a disinfectant wipe, clean the outside of the shield. Discard the wipe.
- Lift the shield up from the table and using a new disinfectant wipe, clean the table surface. Discard the wipe.
- Place the face shield on the cleaned table, with the inside of the shield facing up and using a new disinfectant wipe, clean the inside of the shield, headband, and strap. Discard the wipe.
- Wash or sanitize your hands.
- Immediately store eye protection in a clean and dry place such as a clean resealable plastic bag.

How to Disinfect Safety Glasses or Goggles

- Wash or sanitize your hands.
- Using a disinfectant wipe, clean the inside, outside and temples or straps. Discard the wipe.

- Wash or sanitize your hands.
- Immediately store eye protection in a clean and dry place such as a clean resealable plastic bag.

Safety Use of Eye Protection

- Avoid touching or manipulating the eye protection, once you have put it on. If you do touch it, wash or sanitize your hands afterwards.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth or face. If you need to touch your face, be sure to do so with clean hands.
- If the eye protection becomes soiled, wet or damaged, remove it and clean it, or get a new one.
- Fogging of eye protection is a hazard and can impair your ability to see and work safely. Securing your mask over the bridge of your nose can help to reduce fogging of eye protection. Anti-fog products may also help. These may be ordered through Facilities.
- If your eye protection begins to fog, go to a cool place. If you need to readjust PPE, clean your hands before and after.
- Eye protection must not be shared, unless they have been disinfected between use.

How to wear eye protection video, from Red Cross: https://youtu.be/-EYU80E8_U8

Personal Protective Equipment

- You may be required to wear additional PPE, specific to the work or learning activity. It is important that you wear it.
- If you have questions about the PPE you must wear, speak to your supervisor or faculty

Wearing a Facemask & Feeling Discomfort

Wearing a mask can create a perception of higher temperature and humidity

To avoid discomfort related to facemasks:

- Stay hydrated
- Take microbreaks

Common Spaces and Designated Eating Areas

- Access only common areas that have been reconfigured to comply with physical distancing criteria
- Wear a face covering
- Adhere to occupancy limits

- Designated eating areas have been identified at all campuses, eating is permitted only in these areas
- You may remove your mask to eat in designated eating areas, but must place it back on immediately after eating

Experiencing symptoms

- If you are having difficulty breathing or are experiencing other severe symptoms while on campus, contact Public Safety & Security or call 911 immediately.

Help Keep Our Community Safe

COVID-19 Reporting

For the safety of everyone at GBC, inform the College immediately if you experience COVID-19 symptoms or have come in contact with someone with COVID-19

Students: [georgebrown.ca/letstalkcovid19](https://www.georgebrown.ca/letstalkcovid19) and your professor

Employees: COVIDreporting@georgebrown.ca and your supervisor

Health and Safety Communication

- Start every semester with Take 5 for Safety
- Take 5 for Safety posters are mounted throughout GBC campuses
- Take 5 for Safety process: <https://www.georgebrown.ca/media/12261>

Employees who have health and safety questions, feedback or concerns should raise them to

- Your supervisor
- The Joint Health and Safety Committee, or
- HSW@georgebrown.ca

Students who have health and safety questions, feedback or concerns should raise them to

- Your professor
- Student Counselling and Wellbeing at [georgebrown.ca/letstalkcovid19](https://www.georgebrown.ca/letstalkcovid19)

Quiz

1. Which of these physical distancing practices should you adhere to while on campus?
 - a) Stay 6 feet apart from others
 - b) Avoid unnecessary visits to the College
 - c) Stay at the College for the duration of your class or work shift only
 - d) Avoid physical contact, such as handshakes
 - e) All of the above

2. True or False. Students and employees should wash shared equipment and learning or working stations before and after use.
 - a) True
 - b) False

3. When is eye protection required
 - a) When physical distancing cannot be maintained
 - b) When working in a lab with others
 - c) When working in a shared office with others
 - d) All of the above

4. True or false. Masks are required in all situations where physical distancing cannot be achieved. This includes common spaces like hallways, elevators, stairwells, break rooms, and change rooms.
 - a) True
 - b) False

Answers:

- 1) e
- 2) a
- 3) d
- 4) a

Additional Resources & Information

Health and Safety Concerns

Employees who have health and safety questions, comments or concerns should raise them to:

- Their supervisor
- The Joint Health and Safety Committee
- COVIDreporting@georgebrown.ca

Students who have health and safety questions, comments or concerns should raise them to :

- Their professor
- Public Safety & Security
- Letstalkcovid19@georgebrown.ca

Additional Information

- [George Brown COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [George Brown Return to Campus webpage](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Ministry of Health](#)
- [Ontario Government Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Toronto Public Health COVID-19 page](#)

IMPORTANT

By completing this course you agree to follow COVID-19 protocols while on campus.

Students: Click [HERE](#), tick the "Review Complete" box and then Save. Once completed, you will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours. You will need to present this email, either printed out or displayed on your phone, for access to the college.

Employees: Remember to mark the training as "COMPLETE" in Cornerstone, otherwise we will not have record for your training completion.

THANK YOU, STAY SAFE

