



Face Mask Guidance FAQ

March 9, 2022

Will Bates Technical College lift its indoor masking requirement Monday, March 14, 2022?

Yes, Bates fully expects to lift its indoor masking requirement. The governor's office will release official guidance on masking on college campuses in the weeks ahead. We will provide full details on Bates' expected lifting of mask requirements at that time.

Are masks currently required indoors on Bates campuses?

Yes, Bates will continue to require masks to be properly worn indoors on our campuses from now through March 12, 2022. *After March 12, masks will be required in certain programs, and when employees choose to require masking in their classrooms or office/desk areas*

Will some students or employees be required to wear masks after March 12?

Yes, many allied health programs will require masks, and faculty and staff may require masks in their workspaces or classrooms.

Does this affect unvaccinated students or employees with medical or religious exemptions?

No. We expect the governor's office to issue, in the weeks ahead, clarification on whether masks will continue to be required of unvaccinated students and/or employees with religious or medical exemptions after March 12.

Will some students or employees be required to wear masks after March 12?

For many health sciences classrooms and clinical sites, masking will still be required, in keeping with clinical site policy and local healthcare requirements affecting medical facilities. It is also possible masks may be required for unvaccinated students and/or employees with religious or medical exemptions after March 12; however, we expect clarification on this from the governor's office in the weeks ahead.

I want to continue to wear a mask at Bates after March 12. Will that be allowed?

Absolutely! We know many students and employees will still choose to wear masks beyond March 12. Bates will be supportive and will help ensure everyone on our campuses will continue to be respectful of the decisions of others.

Have Bates' requirements on vaccination changed?

No. Bates is a fully vaccinated college and requires students to complete an online vaccination attestation, or declare a medical or religious exemption, to visit our campuses. Employees are still required show proof of vaccination or obtain a religious or medical exemption from Human Resources.

Will visitors to Bates be required to wear a mask?

All visitors, patients and clients of college programs may be required to wear a mask while indoors on campus, regardless of their vaccination status.

Central/Mohler Campus: 2320 S. 19th St., Tacoma WA 98405 - 253.680.7603

Downtown Campus: 1101 S. Yakima Ave., Tacoma WA 98405 - 253.680.7000

South Campus: 2201 S. 78th St., Tacoma WA 98409 - 253.680.7400

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