

Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

November 3, 2023

UVic is committed to providing safe and healthy environments for all members. 25.20-3 (3 (t)-3 421.6 (BDo6a.-3.13D9)13.



- Following the direction of WorkSafeBC and public health, institutions must ensure that building heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are operating and maintained in accordance with [WorkSafeBC requirements](#) and relevant ASHRAE Standards.
- Facilities Management monitors and maintains HVAC systems to ensure those systems continue to meet WorkSafeBC requirements, including regular filter changes and balancing for air flow, temperature, humidity and other design parameters.
- The university has also taken extra steps to further improve indoor air quality as described in the section, Enhanced Ventilation.
- Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of serious illness from many communicable diseases, such as COVID-19 and influenza.
- The university encourages everyone who is eligible and able, to consider vaccination to protect yourself and others, and visit ImmunizeBC for the full list of recommended vaccines and immunization schedules.
- UVic employees are [entitled to up to three hours of paid leave](#) to be vaccinated against COVID-19, if required.
- [Learn more about the benefits and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine](#), and [register](#) to receive an invite to book a vaccine appointment.

The university continues to maintain the following additional measures for building HVAC systems:

- HVAC filter upgrades to MERV-13 in the majority of buildings
- increased frequency of air filter replacement throughout the fall and winter semesters
- increased supply of fresh air into occupied spaces
- increased rate of air exchange where possible (i.e. total airflow in occupied spaces)
- daily pre-occupancy air change (flush) for building HVAC systems

For naturally ventilated classrooms that are not serviced by a building HVAC system, HEPA air-purifying units have been installed.

- The decision to wear a mask is a personal one, based on individual preference. Some employees, students or visitors may choose to wear a non-medical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities. An individual's choice to practice additional personal prevention measures should be respected.
