

Dos and don'ts when talking about COVID



On the subject of YU Screen clearance and personal health information

Do:

- Remember that everyone has the right to keep details of their personal health information private, and you may remind others.
- Consider whether there is a power differential between yourself and the person you are speaking with. Even if there is no imbalance in perceived power, for example in conversations between peers or between students, voluntarily disclosing health information such as vaccination status may lead to an unspoken expectation someone should reciprocate.

Don't:

- You may not request or demand personal medical information from another person including, but not limited to, their vaccination status.
- No one can deny another person access to a teaching, learning or research space based on assumptions about their personal health information, including their vaccination status.

Conversation starter:

“We all share a responsibility to keep one another safe, including staying home if you're feeling unwell. YU Screen is a helpful tool to use before coming to campus or if you're feeling unwell once you get to campus. Completing the screening will trigger any supports you might need.”

“All information related to screening or collected through YU Screen is kept confidential, and York is committed to the protection of privacy, as required under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).”



On the subject of masks

Do:

- Remember that masks are strongly encouraged while indoors on campus and when we engage in in-person activities, especially where physical distancing is not possible and at in-person exams. You may remind others.

Don't:

- You may not require anyone to wear a mask outside of situations where Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is expected to be worn, for example as part of a program or functional unit's own requirements.
- You may not inquire about or demand to know the rationale for why someone is not wearing a mask.

Conversation starter:

“Masks have been strongly recommended as part of York’s community of care approach to protecting children and other vulnerable people. If you need a mask, they can be acquired using your YU card at vending machines on campus. There is a [map](#) showing where these vending machines can be found in the ‘Masking’ section of the Better Together website.

“I know wearing a mask or face covering may not be comfortable, but I choose to do so and encourage you to do so as it’s an important way to protect us all.”



On the subject of creating individual health and safety rules

Do:

- Be aware of and observe the University’s health and safety protocols at all times while on campus and while engaging in in-person activities.
- You may remind others that the Better Together website is a good source of information on what is and is not allowed on York’s campuses during the pandemic.

Don't:

- No university community member may create their own guidelines around health and safety that conflict with public health regulations, York University policy or procedures, or provincial directives for the post-secondary sector.

Conversation starter:

“York has defined health and safety measures that must be observed by all who come to campus and who participate in in-person activities.

“Information about COVID-19 health and safety measures can be found on the Better Together website. It’s a valuable resource for understanding what is and isn’t allowed on campuses.”