



To the students, faculty and staff of Mount Royal University,

**Mandatory masks keep us safe while we wait to see the direction that the virus takes. For this reason, we urge all of our members to continue masking at Mount Royal.**

The MRU Coalition brings together the elected representatives of the Mount Royal Faculty Association (MRFA), the Mount Royal Staff Association (MRSA) and the Student Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU). Each of these groups have members who continue to face serious risks if they contract COVID 19. The positivity rate remains concerning and the pandemic is not yet over. Wearing masks remains an important part of ensuring a safe environment. This is especially true when students, staff, and faculty spend extended periods of time in confined spaces such as classrooms or larger lecture halls.

The MRU Coalition strongly supports the Student Association's perspective that students must have the right to finish their classes with the safety measures they were guaranteed when registering for the Winter semester. Many students opted for in-person teaching knowing the University had a mask mandate in place. We believe these students have a right to learn under the circumstances they were offered at the time of registration and when in-person teaching resumed February 28, 2022.

Likewise faculty also made decisions about in-person teaching based on the mandatory mask mandate. Many contract faculty, who deliver over 50 percent of the University's teaching, accepted contracts with the mask mandate in place. We believe the University must honour those conditions.

Finally, the directive for all campus staff to return to campus by April 4, 2022 without continuing the previous assurances from our employer to implement all measures possible to keep our community safe perpetuates the sense of being undervalued members of the MRU community. It certainly contributes to the feelings of anxiety that many of the MRSA are expressing.

We care about each other and have a responsibility to do what we can to keep our Mount Royal community and our friends and family as safe as possible. While the provincial government and the university administration have removed the mask mandate, we who actually face the continued risks of spreading and contracting COVID-19 in our hallways, offices and classrooms, can show our respect, care and kindness for one another by staying masked until the public health circumstances change.

**We are disappointed in the provincial government's interference with institutional autonomy on the decision to continue with a masking mandate on MRU campus. Collectively, students, faculty and staff *are* Mount Royal. We can take independent action to best protect ourselves and each other by wearing our masks on campus for the remainder of the semester at a minimum.**

From The MRU COALITION

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President, MRFA

Michelle LoGullo  
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