

**A MESSAGE FROM:****Dr. Janet Morrison,  
President and  
Vice Chancellor**

## Supporting our students

**February 24, 2022**

Colleagues,

Further to my communication of last week, Sheridan is continuing with our plan to resume a significant amount of in-person learning following Reading Week, on March 7. With the wide uptake of booster shots and ICU cases declining, I'm excited about the prospect of a safe return to campus and providing students with the on-campus experience they need and deserve.

### Evolving Health and Safety Policies

To provide certainty to students and employees, Ontario's 24 colleges -- including Sheridan -- will maintain COVID-19 vaccination policies until at least the end of the semester on April 22. For now, we will also continue offering on-campus rapid antigen testing for members of the Sheridan community. As we gradually return to campus, we will be making moderate changes to our policies to reduce congestion at entrances and facilitate a more normal return to campus life.

Effective Monday, February 28, the mask mandate will remain, but you will no longer be required to switch to a Sheridan-provided medical grade mask at the door. You can wear your own medical mask, although cloth masks will not be permitted as they are less effective. If you don't have a mask, one will be provided to you.

You will still be required to tap your onecard and show your Synergy certificate when you enter. We will continue to provide employees with N95 masks and fit testing as requested. After March 1, physical distancing mandates will be lifted across Ontario. For the time being, and to accommodate individual comfort levels with proximity to others, however, we will maintain distancing expectations in common areas such as libraries, cafeterias and office spaces for at least the next few weeks. We are also anticipating changes to regulations that require active screening at all of our doors; if/when that happens, we'll communicate any related changes to you promptly.

### Employee Return to Campus

With more students returning to in-person learning on March 7, increasing the number of employees on campus will be crucial to providing the student experience Sheridan is renowned for. To that end, departments and Faculties will start increasing their employee presence on campus such that -- by the Fall term -- we will be back to pre-pandemic capacity levels.

I know this will generate anxiety; we've been away from campus for a long time. Please rest assured that leaders will work in consultation with their teams to determine the mode of delivery (remote, hybrid or in-person) that is most effective for each position and the level of presence needed to best meet students' needs.

To assist in the planning, several documents have been shared to support managers and employees:

- [Position Assessment Form](#) - a support for managers in deciding what positions can be done off-campus and to what extent
- [Remote Work Protocol](#) – a codification of the rights, responsibilities, and supports for people participating in remote work
- [Remote Work Agreement](#) – a formalized remote work arrangement for employees who work remotely for a total of 7 hours or more per week over 30+ days.
- An [FAQ](#) has also been prepared.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I know there are some people who are extremely eager to be back on campus and some who have ongoing and significant concerns about the health risks of COVID-19. We are taking a thoughtful, gradual, deliberate approach that prioritizes community safety and well-being while living up to our vision to be the epicentre for ground-breaking, standard-setting higher education.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD  
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