

Coaster

Winter 2022 and the COVID-19 Roller

Colleagues: Happy New Year! I hope you were able to rest and recharge over the break.

January 6, 2022

As you know, the provincial government announced new measures to temporarily move the province back to modified Step Two of its reopening plan. These

measures came into effect yesterday: Wednesday, January 5. The Ministry of

Colleges and Universities has advised that these changes do not impact instructional spaces in postsecondary institutions, but they have recommended that we move back to remote learning. Further, we've been encouraged to have employees work remotely whenever possible. We knew in December that a post-holiday surge, fueled by the Omicron variant of concern, was likely. In anticipation of that -- and to provide as much certainty as possible to students and staff -- Sheridan announced in December that our start

date would remain January 10, and that most courses would be delivered remotely until January 24. There are, as you'd expect, some exceptions where in-person learning will begin on January 10 as planned. These include some practical labs and health care programs; please be assured that all impacted students have been notified via email and that the information is posted on myOTR. Please also note that student services will remain available online. Notwithstanding that we are proceeding as planned, I have a few other updates to share today. Vaccines

 Rapid antigen testing Masks Reporting

As I mentioned in December, we expect the definition of "fully vaccinated" will evolve to ultimately include booster shots. Until, however, third doses are readily available to everyone in our learning community, what we consider "fully vaccinated"

remains the same - in most cases, two doses of a Health Canada-approved

vaccine, with the final dose having been received at least 14 days prior. Our Health Centres are working to secure vaccines for booster shots, but the province's supply of vaccines is currently strained. If there is sufficient demand, we would like to

- Working remotely • On-campus presence
- Roller coasters
- Vaccines

host a Moderna vaccine clinic for the Sheridan community. To gauge the need for vaccines -- including boosters, please fill out this very short survey by

Rapid antigen testing

January 10.

Rapid antigen testing is available at the following times to any member of the Sheridan community who is eligible to be on campus and wants to test as a precaution: Davis: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – B236 • HMC: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – B194 Trafalgar: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – B101

- **Masks**

Public Health Ontario stated that both medical masks and respirators (e.g., N95s) are effective against the COVID-19 virus and that differences in efficacy between the two are likely small, especially when they fit well and are worn consistently.

endeavour to have these masks available for the duration of the semester although the supplies of N95 masks in Ontario are extremely limited. Occupational Health and Safety will have guidance regarding appropriate use and disposal. If you want to wear your own N95 mask on campus, you will be asked to wear the

Sheridan-issued medical mask over your N95 as we are seeing many masks being

marketed as N95s that do not meet applicable standards.

However, Sheridan has been working to procure a stable and sustainable supply of N95 masks for employees who are deemed essential to be on campus. We will

Everyone who enters campus must wear a Sheridan-issued mask. Very recently,

Reporting Given the test positivity rate in Ontario, some have asked if members of the Sheridan community must continue to report positive cases. Rigorous reporting is

imperative, employees and students must report if they have been on campus within the 48 hours before testing positive or having symptoms of COVID-19, or if you were on campus or expected to be on campus during your self isolation period.

Students should report to the Health Centre at 605-845-9430 ext 5153. Employees

the key to contact tracing and has been critical to our success in limiting infection

and transmission on our campuses throughout the pandemic. Given that

should report to the Occupational Health and Safety Services at

If you are working remotely, you do not need to advise Sheridan unless

ohsservices@sheridancollege.ca.

operations.

accommodation is needed because you cannot work due to illness or caregiving responsibilities. **Working remotely** There are options for colleagues who are working remotely and trying to juggle caregiving responsibilities. We know that's really tough so please speak to your

manager about temporarily modifying aspects of your work during this time. Managers are asked to be as empathetic as possible when considering flexible working options. In a similar vein, we're encouraging employees to propose

practical, sustainable solutions that will enable Sheridan to meet its obligations in the face of ongoing resource challenges that are impacting every aspect of our

familiarize yourself with Sheridan's many wellness programs including mental health care, the Employee and Family Assistance Program and other related supports.

Sheridan's COVID-19 page. In addition, policies, teaching resources and support for managers and employees can be found on Sheridan Central. Please also

Information about air quality improvements, cleaning and other FAQs are posted on

essential can be on campus at this time. Gyms are closed. Bookstores at all three campuses have curbside pick-up, but the Davis bookstore will be open for in-person shopping to accommodate a higher number of in-person classes. Tim Hortons at the Davis campus will be open on January 10 and all other food outlets, including those at Trafalgar and HMC, will open January 24. Cafeterias will remain accessible as study spaces, with the caveat that physical distancing must be maintained at all times. Xerox will accept online orders and offer curbside pickup, mailroom drop or

delivery via Purolator. IT services will be available virtually and for curbside pickup.

COVID is like a roller coaster – the ride is full of ups and downs. We anticipate a peak, but the unknown path and timing continues to cause tremendous uncertainty. Twenty-one months into this global crisis, however, we know more about what to expect and how to manage through it. In that vein, I'm asking every member of our

Only students and employees who have in-person classes or have been deemed

learning community to continue: focusing on self-care; being vigilant about your own and others' health and wellbeing; and, demonstrating compassionate and empathy. Finally, please ask for help if you need it. This too shall pass, and I

remain positive about 2022.

imperative.

crystalized in our Strategic Plan.

The roller coaster

On-campus presence

Back in March 2020, we were clueless about the length, volatility and consequences of this pandemic. Together, we articulated and have acted in accordance with five principles: The physical health and holistic wellbeing of our entire learning community is paramount. Across as many academic programs as possible, we will facilitate academic completion for learners through an alternate/remote delivery model and social distancing. In all instances, planning will respect the pillars of our Academic Plan: character, quality and accountability.

Sheridan will navigate the pandemic response together, as a learning

· Safeguarding the long-term economic sustainability of Sheridan is an

community, in ways that demonstrate kindness, generosity, and compassion.

Our long-term lens will remain rivetted to the four priorities and five enablers

These principles have been our north star as we've navigated physical, mental and

financial health challenges and risks - together -- over the last 20 months. They reflect our shared commitment to academic rigour and Sheridan's trademark

kindness. You have my word that I will endeavour to continue leading with them always at the fore.

I really, really hope that this wave will peak quickly so we can be back on campus January 24. As always, however, Sheridan will make decisions based on data, and

in consultation with public health experts. You can be assured I'll continue to keep you updated.

Subscribe to our email list.

Warmly,

Sher dan Co ege

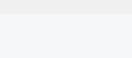
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President and Vice Chancellor

Janet Morrison, PhD

Sheridan



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