

A MESSAGE FROM:

**Dr. Janet Morrison,
President and
Vice Chancellor**



Important updates for the Winter 2022 term

December 17, 2021

Colleagues,

Once again, we are facing uncertainty as concerns over the Omicron variant raise questions for governments and educational institutions. As we have throughout the pandemic, Sheridan will prioritize health and safety while leading with compassion. Always, we will take guidance and direction from public health leaders.

Significant work has been done over the last 18 months with regard to cleaning, ventilation and air flow to bring in new products and innovative technologies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our buildings. Even with the variant, we still feel confident that our classrooms will be safe for those whose programs require face-to-face learning. While there are still many unanswered questions, I want to provide a few updates:

- Winter 2022 term
- Work-integrated learning
- Working on campus
- Vaccine certificates

- Rapid antigen testing
- Holiday break

Winter 2022 term

For Winter 2022, our planning was guided by a set of principles that included contingency measures to allow us to shift to alternate modes of delivery if necessary. **As a result of the rising cases of COVID-19 and the guidance we have received from public health, the Winter 2022 start date will remain January 10, 2022, however most courses will be delivered remotely. We expect to return to campus on January 24, 2022.** There are a few exceptions where in-person learning will begin on January 10, including some practical labs and health care related programs. Students in those programs will receive more information in the coming days.

Work-integrated learning

Co-op and internship **preparation courses** are scheduled to be virtual for the entire winter term. Winter co-op and internships work-terms are expected to proceed as scheduled, provided they have been previously approved by the co-op office and are in accordance with public health guidelines.

As always, this is subject to change should employers or supervisors change their workplaces from in-person to remote or vice versa. If students feel uncomfortable with **their work-term** arrangement due to COVID-19, please ask them to contact the co-op office. Student wellbeing is our priority and our team will support them to negotiate modifications to their work-term such as working remotely, modified hours, adjusted duties, or a delayed start date, if possible. For **field and clinical placements**, students should confirm plans with their instructor or field placement coordinator.

Services for students and employees

In January, student services and supports will be available virtually until January 24 including the Centre for Student Success, international student services, libraries, tutoring, financial services and the Office of the Registrar. The Student Health Centres will continue to provide primary health care services virtually or in-person. Students can call the Health Centres at Davis (905-459-7533 ext. 5153) or Trafalgar (905-845-9430 ext. 2550) to book an appointment. Beginning January 4, bookstores at all three campuses will have curbside pick-up and 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. Xerox will accept online orders, though the in-person counter will be closed until January 24. IT services will be available virtually and for curbside pickup.

Regarding parking, anyone who is not returning until January 24 can request to have January's payroll deduction stopped for January. Please make this request to parking@sheridancollege.ca by December 22 to meet payroll deadlines.

Please also know that we are communicating directly with students in residence and ensuring they are well supported.

Working on campus

Our direction to employees is driven by the return to in-person instruction for students. **As such, we are asking employees who can work remotely to do so until January 24.** If you have not yet done your pre-holiday visit, please postpone that visit until the new year.

As a note, both domestic (out of province) and international work-related travel is prohibited, with some exceptions being considered on a case-by-case basis. These exceptions must be approved by the President, Provost, or Vice President, Finance & Administration. Travel restrictions will be reviewed as we learn more about the evolving situation with the Omicron variant, however it is best to not make work-related travel plans before March 1, 2022.

Rapid antigen testing

Rapid antigen testing is now available to any member of the Sheridan community who is eligible to be on campus (i.e., those who currently hold a medical or creed-based accommodation and those who are fully vaccinated) who feel the need to test as a precaution. Testing is available up to and including Wednesday, December 22 at:

- 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

We will provide further information about the availability of on-campus rapid antigen testing in the new year.

Vaccine certificates

We've been asked if we will move to using only the province's QR code vaccine receipt at the entrances to campus. Unfortunately, the QR code does not provide enough information for the weekly vaccine compliance reports that we are directed to send to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. All students and employees will need to continue to show their Synergy compliance card to enter campus indicating full vaccination.

At some point, we expect the definition of "fully vaccinated" to include booster shots, but until booster shots are readily available, what we consider "fully vaccinated" remains the same - in most cases, two doses of a Health Canada-approved vaccine.

Holiday break

Colleagues, I understand how frustrating and exhausting it is to be back in this situation once again.

I am choosing to try and get through this by doing what's within my scope of control; being selective about what events or gatherings I attend, physical distancing, handwashing, consistently wearing a properly fitted mask, getting tested if necessary or using a rapid test before seeing people outside my household and getting a booster shot. Even this rapidly spreading variant can't spread by itself; it's incumbent on each of us to protect ourselves and others.

Thank you again for all the planning (and re-planning!) that you've done to keep our campuses safe and prioritize the student experience. Thank you for being nimble, agile and constructive as we've navigated these choppy and ever-changing waters...together. The executive leadership team wish you a restful, rejuvenating and joyous holiday break. The success we've had in our virtual and in-person classes is wholly the result of your commitment and dedication.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD
President and Vice Chancellor

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