

A MESSAGE FROM:**Kathryn Cameron, PhD**
Chief Risk Officer
Risk Management

Updates to contact tracing and case management procedures

January 21, 2022

Dear colleagues,

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide some updates to Sheridan's COVID-19 case management process and to remind you about our collective reporting duty to keep each other safe at Sheridan.

Throughout the pandemic we have relied on you to let us know about your circumstances regarding COVID-19. We have a great track record of self-reporting and taking the appropriate precautions to keep our community safe.

The rapid and exponential spread of Omicron has changed many aspects of COVID-19 case and contact management. With more stringent testing criteria, many of us are no longer eligible for a provincially-funded test to confirm a COVID-19 diagnosis. Instead, public health has asked anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to stay home, use Ontario's [self assessment tool](#) and limit their social interactions.

We continue to count on you to let us know about your COVID-19 symptoms and/or a positive COVID-19 test result. **The requirement to report applies if you have been on campus in the 48 hours prior to symptom onset and/or a positive COVID-19 test, or if you have been on campus after developing symptoms and/or testing positive for COVID-19.** This can now be done through a [self reporting form here](#) instead of directly reaching out to Occupational Health and Safety Services or the Workplace Abilities Office.

Effective Monday, January 24, 2022, Sheridan's approach to contact tracing will become aligned with current Public Health guidelines and practices with enhancements. As you may already know, [public health guidance](#) states that individuals with COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to identify and inform close contacts themselves. However, to provide you information about workplace exposures, Occupational Health and Safety Services will continue to reach out to you if you were deemed to have had a 'close contact' to an infectious individual while on campus. A close contact means you were in close proximity (less than 2 metres) for at least 15 minutes or for multiple short periods of time without appropriate measures such as masking (e.g., medical mask or N95).

Sheridan has numerous safety measures in place, including HVAC upgrades, a vaccination policy, physical distancing, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, and most recently, provision of N95 masks with fit-testing available. The rapid antigen testing clinic continues to be available to employees and students who wants to participate. All of this information and [other FAQs are posted on Sheridan's COVID-19 page](#).

Lastly, we recognize how challenging this is for our Sheridan community. Please utilize Sheridan's many [wellness programs](#) including mental health care such as the [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#) and other related supports.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping our community safe.

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