

## A MESSAGE FROM:

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



## Fall planning

**June 3, 2021**

Colleagues,

As you know, the Province has been adjusting and readjusting its reopening plans based on capacity numbers in hospital intensive care units and the supply and rollout of vaccines. In addition to Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#), we must also adhere to the guidelines established by the Halton and Peel Public Health Units, which may be more restrictive than provincial directives. In summary: given the ecosystem we inhabit, we remain compelled to continually respond to changing direction.

Despite the ongoing uncertainty, however, we are cautiously optimistic about the fall and hope to deliver an increase in hybrid learning experiences so more students have the opportunity to learn on campus. Some classes will be in-person while others are online; the mix will be different for each program, with some programs remaining entirely virtual.

The Government of Ontario's planning rests on high rates of vaccination, low rates of COVID-19 transmission and stable operating conditions in hospitals, all of which may vary from region to region. In keeping with the government's planning, we see Sheridan's return to campus unfolding as a three-stage process:

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### Stage 1 – Maximum Restrictions (current environment)

Masks, active screening, controlled access, enhanced cleaning, physical distancing, essential learning (mandatory, hands-on) and personnel only, capacity limits of 10 and 50 depending on program.

### **Stage 2 – Moderate Return to Campus**

Masks, controlled access, enhanced cleaning, physical distancing, expanded number of people based on facility capacity studies and ability to distance by two metres.

### **Stage 3 – Full Return to Campus**

No masks, full access, no active screening, normal cleaning procedures, no physical distancing, return to pre-pandemic classroom capacities.

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Teams across the college are working to determine delivery modes based on the need for in-person learning and classroom capacity while physical distancing remains in place (i.e. Stages 1 and 2).

Consistent with our past practices, we're using the following planning principles to guide this work:

- Treat all campuses equally in moving through various stages of on-campus access.
- Increase the capacity to more than 10 people per learning space with the flexibility to pivot up or down if guidelines change.
- Increase in-person learning only where it makes sense and will cause minimal disruption to the current planning framework.
- Plan for two metres of physical distancing in learning spaces and/or limited application of engineered solutions (e.g. plexiglass dividers).
- Continue use of personal protective equipment.
- Maintain program delivery modes throughout each term (i.e. those that begin hybrid will end hybrid; those that begin in fully virtual delivery will end that way) with possible changes to delivery mode occurring only between terms.

The Facilities team and members of the Office of the Registrar have been meeting with Faculties to revisit the fall plan and discuss face-to-face delivery options that align with these principles. In some cases, for example, sections may be delivered in two adjacent classrooms with technology solutions used to connect the learning environments.

At the same time, Facilities and the Occupational Health and Safety team are conducting detailed capacity studies to determine occupancy limits for learning spaces and Faculty offices.

Discussions will also take place with the Student Experience and Enrolment Management (SEEM) team to determine requirements for on-campus student and academic services. Similarly, this will be followed by detailed capacity studies for offices of employees who support those activities. We anticipate sharing the results of this planning in July.

Planning of office space for other administrative employees will begin after plans are completed and implemented for student-facing positions, likely beginning in

not be required on campus until January 2022. However, a plan is developing to welcome employees eager to reacclimatize to campus in late fall. While this no doubt seems a long ways off, please rest assured that the timing will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as circumstances continue to evolve.

Irrespective of timing, the return to campus will be staged and, in many cases, hybrid to allow for a mix of on-campus and remote work. Managers will work with teams in the fall to determine what their business needs are and how to provide supports.

In closing, I want to thank the Sheridan employees who have been on campus since March 2020. Many of our colleagues have been providing teaching, support and critical services to the essential learning activities that have been happening on campus throughout the pandemic. This has been very challenging work, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

I hope that anyone who wanted to receive their vaccine has had a chance to do so, either in their neighbourhood or at Sheridan's vaccination clinic. Spots are still available. Please visit [sheridancollege.ca/vaccine](https://sheridancollege.ca/vaccine) to register. Our community agency partners have expressed tremendous gratitude for Sheridan's leadership and commitment to reciprocity. Thank you to everyone who has helped to organize or volunteered.

As we have since the start of the pandemic, we remain committed to making the best decisions we can based on the information available to us – always with the well-being of our students and employees at the fore. We'll use the same collaborative, compassionate approach to propel our community to the next milestone.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD  
President and Vice Chancellor

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