

Email to students: **Updated COVID-19 measures to address variants of concern**
March 5, 2021

Sheridan remains in regular communication with Public Health partners and works together to respond to on-campus exposures, identify close contacts and implement additional strategies to mitigate further spread of the COVID-19 virus.

In response to the evolving situation related to new COVID-19 variants of concern (VOCs), the Ministry of Health has provided additional guidance on cases, contact and outbreaks.

What has changed?

All public health measures to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 continue to apply to the new COVID-19 VOCs but require more rigorous application due to the increased transmission risk. Please see the updates below.

- There is a lower threshold for classifying contacts as high-risk exposures that require self-isolation. To mitigate this, all employees and students will be provided with and required to use a Sheridan-issued medical mask while on campus. The medical masks will be available at the entrance in classrooms.
- Where people will occasionally be within two metres of each other for more than a transient interaction (e.g., passing by others), eye protection (i.e. a face shield, safety glasses or safety goggles) is also required.
- If someone in your house (siblings, parents, roommates, etc.) has been exposed to COVID-19 and are asymptomatic, you are required to stay home except for essential reasons for the duration of the household member's quarantine period. Per Public Health guidelines, attending school is considered an essential reason and therefore you will continue to be allowed on campus as long as the household member remains asymptomatic.
- If someone in your house has COVID-19 symptoms, you are required to stay home until the symptomatic individual receives a negative COVID-19 test result or is provided an alternative diagnosis by a healthcare professional. Please contact your Faculty member to discuss ways to facilitate your learning during your quarantine.

Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Once you retrieve a medical mask in your class, you can temporarily remove the non-medical mask you wore to campus to put on the medical mask. During this time, everyone must stand at least two metres apart from one another and remain stationary. The short period of time when the masks are being switched is not considered a significant risk by Public Health. Double-masking is not necessary and wearing a medical mask over a non-medical mask is not recommended at this time.

Resources

- [How to Don and Doff PPE \(Poster\)](#) - provides information on how and in which order PPE should be worn (including medical masks).
- [How to Store a Non-Medical Mask Between Uses](#) – provides information on how non-medical masks should be stored while not in use.

Campus access reminder

While our campuses remain accessible for those attending in-class instruction and staff who are not able to work remotely, everyone must follow the mandatory protocols:

- Bring your OneCard with you each time you come to campus, tap it when you enter campus, and display it at all times.
- Answer the self-screening questions on the Sheridan Alert app with honesty.
- Only use designated entrance and exit points as screening is critical to campus safety.

COVID-19 cases and contact tracing

In the event of an exposure on campus, and after an investigation by Sheridan College and/or Public Health, we will continue to directly contact individuals who are impacted. These contacts will be provided specific instructions via their SLATE email. Please be sure to check your SLATE account regularly.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you may receive a letter from Public Health with instructions on communicating with others about the positive test result. If this is the case, we ask that you notify the Sheridan Student Health Centre at 905-845-9430 ext. 5153 immediately and prior to distributing the letters to other Sheridan community members. Through Sheridan's contact tracing protocols, we can assist you with identifying the recipients and distribution.

Should you receive a letter indicating that you were a close contact from someone who tested positive for COVID-19, please stay at home.

As COVID-19 remains a persistent threat in our community, please continue to maintain physical distancing, wear a mask, and practice good hand cleaning to reduce the risk of future infections. As situations quickly evolve, please continue to visit coronavirus.sheridancollege.ca for the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 at Sheridan, including positive cases of COVID-19 that are connected to our campuses.

We understand that this may be concerning. Please be reminded that confidential counselling is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from [EmpowerME](#) or [KeepMeSafe](#). You can also book a virtual appointment with our Counsellors by contacting askanadvisor@sheridancollege.ca.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Cameron, PhD
Chief Risk Officer and Chair, Emergency Operations Centre