

A MESSAGE FROM:**Dr. Kathryn Cameron**
Chief Risk Officer and
Chair, Emergency Operations Centre

Vaccine mandate updates and return to campus framework

September 2

Colleagues,

Throughout the pandemic, Sheridan's response has been guided by an unwavering commitment to protect the health and holistic wellbeing of our entire learning community. [As you know](#), Sheridan is following the [provincial rules](#) and requiring everyone who comes to campus to demonstrate that they are fully vaccinated this fall.

This message includes important information about:

- Sheridan's vaccine verification from Synergy Gateway
- Sheridan's vaccination policy and access to campus for students and employees
- Mandatory COVID-19 training
- Ongoing support

Vaccination Verification from Synergy Gateway

You should have received an email from helpdesk@synergygateway.com with the subject line: "Your Access to Verified." If you have not received it, please check your spam folder.

All students and employees can upload their vaccination records to a secure document management platform hosted by Synergy Gateway that ensures data integrity and security.

Sheridan has reviewed Synergy's Gateway's data and security preparedness and completed a privacy impact assessment. The system meets Sheridan's high privacy standards. Its information is kept on data servers that are physically located in Canada with appropriate administrative, physical, and technical safeguards to protect the security and integrity of the data such as encryption, firewalls, next generation persistent threat monitoring, etc. Synergy also adheres to appropriate privacy legislation and does not share personal or health information with anyone. In addition, Synergy has undergone a SSAE16 Audit, SOC2 Audit, and has an ISO27001 certificate.

Synergy provides a help desk service Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The [helpdesk operates on a ticket-based system](#) and all inquiries are answered by email. Please ensure you log in with the credentials specified in the email from Synergy Gateway. If you have not received the Synergy email or have any questions, please contact helpdesk@synergygateway.com.

October 15 is the deadline for uploading vaccination records.

Individuals who do not have proof of vaccination may still be granted access to campus if they receive a vaccine accommodation. Details regarding how to apply for an accommodation are embedded in the accommodation forms that are available for download from the Synergy Gateway platform.

Student Vaccination Requirements and Access to Campus

Sheridan's return to campus plan invites all students to use common spaces, such as libraries and tutoring centres, even if they are registered in online programs. To enable smooth operation of our new check in procedures, we kindly ask that on Tuesday September 7, only those students with an in-person class come to campus.

October 15 is the deadline for uploading student vaccination records. Anyone who has not submitted proof of full vaccination by that date will be denied access to campus unless they have received a vaccine accommodation from Sheridan.

Students who are living in residence or are varsity athletes are expected to upload their vaccination information to the Synergy Gateway platform even if they have already provided their documents to residence or the Health Centre. **The deadline for varsity athletes or students in residence to receive their second dose remains September 17.**

Any student who is required to be on campus and has not submitted proof of vaccination and who also does not have a vaccine accommodation from Sheridan by October 15 will need to email registrar@sheridancollege.ca to determine options for continuing in their academic program.

Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Screening

Starting September 7, individuals who need to come to campus but have not uploaded vaccine records including anyone who has applied for, or received vaccine accommodation, must participate in onsite, rapid antigen screening for COVID-19. A negative screening result will be required to be on campus. A recent change in provincial guidelines means that screening will be required only **once per week**, however this is subject to change.

After October 15, only fully vaccinated individuals and those with an approved Sheridan vaccine accommodation will be permitted on campus. Individuals with an approved accommodation will be required to undertake rapid antigen screening on campus.

Our partner, Global Health Solutions, will be on campus starting on September 7 to perform the screening and to administer follow up testing should a screening result come back positive. Testing will be available from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday at the designated entrances on all campuses.

Unvaccinated employees who do not wish to participate in on-campus rapid antigen testing are **not to attend campus starting September 7**. Unvaccinated employees who will not participate in antigen testing but who have assigned on-campus duties from September 7 onward must contact Human Resources immediately at hr@sheridancollege.ca. Unvaccinated employees who are unwilling to participate in Sheridan's on-campus antigen testing will likely be placed on unpaid leave for the portion of their duties they cannot perform due to being unable to attend campus. Further information in this regard will be communicated tomorrow.

Mandatory COVID-19 Training

All students and employees are required to take Sheridan's SLATE COVID-19 training module. This module will be available for students in SLATE and on [Sheridan Central](#) for employees. Once you have completed the training, you need to complete the acknowledgement form.

Ongoing Support

Sheridan is offering vaccination for all members of the community through the [Health Centres](#) and as well as by hosting [mobile vaccine busses](#).

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities has now released its Fall 2021 framework for postsecondary institutions. Its guidelines directly align with Sheridan's plan to return to campus with strict health and safety measures, including a vaccine mandate. The framework allows for more in-person learning, access to studios, labs and collaborative learning spaces, reaffirming the direction Sheridan has already taken and communicated. In addition, the framework directs all postsecondary institutions to have a continuity of education plan. You can find Sheridan's plan [posted at the bottom of this page](#).

On September 1, the Province announced an enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app for access to additional indoor public places after September 22 such as bars and fitness centres. This is in addition to the initial list of places that require mandatory vaccines, including health care and post-secondary institutions. This new process and timeline does not change Sheridan's vaccine policy. To access Sheridan's campuses, individuals will need to demonstrate proof of vaccination or a vaccine accommodation by using the Synergy Gateway platform as announced last week.

Given the highly fluid nature of this pandemic, Sheridan may be required to make further changes to our policy and procedures. As information becomes available, we will continue to share it with you. In the meantime, please visit our [COVID-19 FAQs](#) where we continue to provide updated information. Employees can also review our [Return to Campus](#) page on Sheridan Central for additional resources.

We continue to take a layered approach protecting health and safety. Requiring everyone who comes to campus to be fully vaccinated supports Sheridan's work to ensure a safe return to in-person instruction. This is in addition to existing measures including mandatory mask requirements, upgraded ventilation in our buildings, enhanced cleaning and sanitizing protocols, way-finding signage, controlled access and contact tracing.

Thank you for your ongoing patience as we continue to navigate the ever-changing conditions of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

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