



28 September 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Families,

I wanted to update you on the COVID situation on campus. I can confirm now that one Pearson employee has tested positive for the virus. That employee is isolating at home for a period of 10 days from the onset of symptoms and is taking all other recommended precautions. At this time, **no other employee or student has tested positive for the virus. This is great news and it means we can confirm that no outbreak has been declared at Pearson.**

We used [PCR COVID testing](#) to test other employees who were in close contact with our positive case and to test some students who exhibited cold/flu-like symptoms last week. We also used rapid antigen testing to test staff, faculty and students who were in close contact with the positive case last Monday and Tuesday. **All of these tests have come back negative.**

Without minimizing the impact of a COVID diagnosis on any individual, the lack of an outbreak on campus suggests that our continuing protocols and precautions – particularly vaccinations – are helping to protect our community and to help keep our school year intact.

As Director of Health Services, I am in contact with the regional Public Health office which is aware of our situation and are knowledgeable about precautionary isolation measures for students suffering from cold/flu-like symptoms. With that in mind, and working with campus leadership, we have decided that the updated precautions I shared last Thursday, and listed below, will remain in place until 7 a.m. Thursday, 7 October, as long as we do not have any additional confirmed COVID cases.

For students, the steps to limit mass indoor gatherings, sticking to dayrooms in their own residence house and others listed below remain in place. As well, employees who have been working at home can return to their normal days on campus. Of course, please remember that if the campus situation changes, these measures can be revised at any time.

Precautionary Measures in Place Until 7 a.m. 7 October

- All existing health and safety protocols remain in place.
- In addition, masks must be worn indoors at all times in all spaces with the exception of individual dorm rooms, the Dining Hall (when eating) and private residences. All indoor public spaces on campus include House dayrooms, Student Common Room, Ann and Tony Macoun Theatre, Library, Max Bell, administrative and other offices.
- Students are restricted to their own House dayrooms only – no visiting other dayrooms.
- Except for classes and educational gatherings (teaching, seminars etc.), large in-person meetings and gatherings such as village gatherings, staff/faculty meetings are to be done virtually until further notice. If you have any questions about whether an event can proceed, please consult with the Campus Health Centre.

- The mini-gym and pool remain open but are restricted to a maximum of 3 persons each for the gym and weight room and 10 persons in the pool. Masks must be worn in the gym/weight room and equipment must be sanitized thoroughly before and after use.
- Outdoor activities may continue as scheduled.
- For adults, as per our existing protocols, if you or anyone in your family is sick, stay at home and do not come to work.
- For students, if you feel sick, report immediately to the Campus Health Centre for guidance.
- Student visits to adult and family residences should be minimized and should only take place at the discretion of the adult residents.
- Dining Hall and Facilities staff are exercising extra vigilance in cleaning and sanitization for eating, working and living spaces on campus.
- Please exercise individual vigilance through handwashing, personal hygiene and sanitizing workspaces.
- Non-essential trips off campus (banking, shopping, restaurants/cafés, post office) are restricted until further notice.
- The campus remains closed to non-essential guests and visitors.

Once again, I thank students and everyone on campus for being vigilant and understanding the need for protocols and precautions. Together, our response as a community and as a school to the COVID pandemic continues to be positive – in the best sense of that word!

Shared on behalf of the COVID-19 Working Group.

Thanks,
Morgan Yates, MN, RN
Director of Health Services