

08 March 2022

## An Update from Campus

As anticipated and as shared in earlier messages, with the loosening of public health guidance and the concurrent easing of campus rules, we are experiencing an increase in the number of positive COVID cases in students. Fortunately, as before, symptoms are generally mild and re-integration into the campus community occurs after appropriate isolation periods.

Again, as noted earlier, the number of designated isolation spaces on campus is limited and we have moved to implement contingencies as more beds are needed. As always, the health and academic wellbeing of students in isolation continues to be monitored and supported. We are very grateful to faculty, staff and residents, including those who have volunteered to be “meal runners,” for example, for making this possible.

With the recent increase in positive cases, we have implemented a one-week “circuit breaker” to slow transmission of the virus on campus. From today (8 March) to the morning of 15 March, we implemented several protocols:

- **Mask Wearing:** Students must wear masks in classrooms and in all other buildings including their House dayrooms and hallways. Mask use is not mandatory in a student’s own dorm room.
- **Classroom Protocols:** In-class learning will continue as scheduled in accordance with current Ministry of Advanced Education and Public Health guidelines. Data continues to show that classrooms where mask-wearing and other protocols are tightly followed and controlled reduce transmission. CAS and other activities such as student clubs will be suspended for the circuit-breaker week.
- **Fitness/Wellbeing:** House schedules for gym and pool use, as well as outdoor activities, are in effect. Masks must be worn except when exercising, but are recommended even when exercising, as well as physical distancing of 2m when moving around the space or when close to others. All equipment must be cleaned and sanitized after use.
- **Off-campus Activities:** Student activities off campus are suspended for this period.
- **Student Meals:** Breakfasts and lunches will be delivered to House dayrooms. Dinner will be served in the dining hall on a House rotation basis with a supervisor present. Staff, faculty and residents will not be permitted to eat in the dining hall during this period.
- **Campus Gatherings:** The Village Gathering and other meetings for large groups are suspended for this period. Alternate online arrangements via MS Teams or Zoom can be used as appropriate.
- **Campus Buildings:** Student access to other campus buildings will be restricted and buildings locked overnight. Buildings used for House rotation fitness and/or well-being activities excepted.

Provincial Health Officer guidance shows the province is moving towards a more endemic approach to managing COVID-19, one that balances minimal societal disruption with continuing public health vigilance. Experts tell us the Omicron variant, while highly transmissible, is a milder form of the virus resulting in less severe symptoms. Organizations, including Pearson, are moving to manage Omicron in a way similar to other seasonal respiratory viruses.

With this in mind, we continue to urge everyone on campus to wear masks in group settings, to wash their hands frequently, to maintain physical distancing as appropriate and to respect the wishes of others' differing comfort levels during this time. Taking steps to care for yourself helps take care of the entire community.

We appreciate the patience, cooperation and support of everyone on campus to help maximize health and safety and minimize disruption to academic and overall student life.

Yours sincerely,

Tyrone Pile  
Vice President, Operations and Administration