

PEARSON COLLEGE



26 August 2021

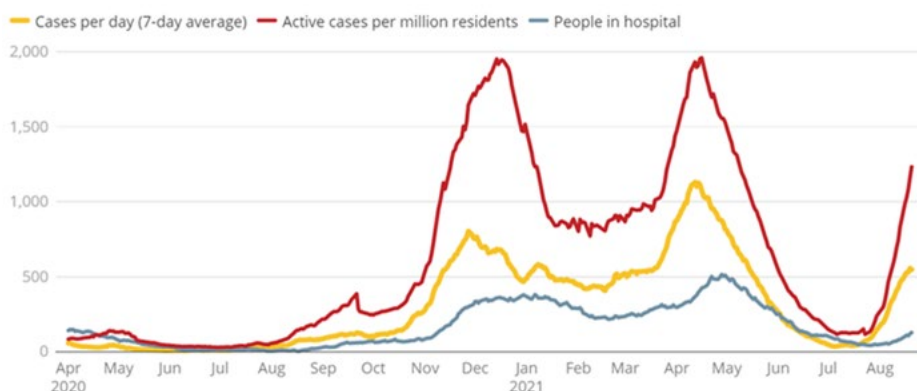
Update: COVID-19 Vaccinations and Pearson College UWC

Dear Years 47 and 48 Students, Parents and Guardians,

Good day. As you have seen from our earlier messages, we in the Province of British Columbia, Canada are in a transition period from highly prescriptive COVID-19 orders and protocols to a period of less prescriptive College guidance on campus health and safety. This transition is being guided by provincial Public Health Office and Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development directives included in the province's [Restart Plan](#) and the Ministry's [Return to Campus Guidelines](#). (The latter Guidelines document is scheduled to be updated next week.)

During early summer, COVID-19 conditions were improving. Recently though, COVID-19 cases, particularly **Delta variant** cases began to increase with the impact primarily on unvaccinated individuals – up to 95% by some measures. This is a **4th wave** as shown in [BC Centre of Disease Control graphics](#). In view of rising cases and hospitalizations, announcements from the Public Health Officer (PHO) and education ministries this week provided additional direction and guidance on mask-wearing, vaccination status and other COVID-19 preventative measures for the general public and for the re-opening of schools, colleges and universities. Details and the impact of these announcements are outlined below.

COVID-19 in British Columbia by the numbers



Numbers accurate as of August 20, 2021.

CBC NEWS

Chart: Justin McElroy • Source: BC Centre for Disease Control

Recent Province of B.C. Announcements:

- **BC Restart Plan Step 4 Delayed** - On Monday, 23 August, the government announced they will delay implementation of Restart Plan Step 4. A new date for implementation of Step 4 has not been set.
- **Masks Required, Indoor Public Settings** - The government announced, effective 25 August, masks are required in all public indoor settings for all people born in 2009 or earlier (12 years of age and older).
- **Proof of Vaccination** – Starting 13 September, proof of vaccination will be required in B.C. to access a broad range of social, recreational and discretionary events and businesses.

What do these announcements mean for you and Life on Campus?

Step 4 Delay – As noted by PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry, while “the province has met its immunization targets” (over 70% of individuals aged 18 or over receiving at least one dose), “case numbers and hospitalizations remain high”. To advance to Step 4, low and decreasing case numbers and hospitalizations are required. This has resulted in the government re-introducing some of the more prescriptive protocols, such as indoor mask wearing in public places.

This also means the College will remain in its current transition period for an extended period. Dr. Henry’s message was clear, **“as students, parents and families prepare to head back to the classroom, make getting vaccinated a part of your back-to-school preparations. If you’re aged 12 and over and you haven’t already gotten both doses, now is the time to [GET VACCINATED.](#)”**

Masks at Pearson -- In accordance with PHO and education ministries direction, indoor public areas on Pearson’s campus requiring masks will include classrooms, labs, lobbies, hallways and stairwells. Specifically, in addition to the above, public indoor settings requiring masks at Pearson will include the Dining Hall (except when eating while seated), Library, Max Bell Theatre and lobby, Jane and Jack Matthews Room, Ann and Tony Macoun Theatre, Maintenance Building, Spiritual Centre and Floating Building Workspaces. For clarification, Ondaatje Hall and the Library Loft are considered classrooms and will require masks.

Student Dayrooms in residence houses are an extension of student living spaces and are exempt from mandatory mask-wearing. In view of limited indoor spaces available to students, students inside the Student Common Room are exempt from mandatory mask-wearing. Remember, not everyone transitions at the same pace, so be mindful and respectful of personal distances and individual choices to wear a mask outside mandatory areas.

Vaccination Requirements -- Students living in on-campus student housing across B.C.’s post-secondary institutions will require a partial vaccination (first dose) by 7 September 2021 to align with their start of most fall academic terms. **However, as Pearson’s academic term commences on 3 September, a minimum partial vaccination (one dose) will be required on that date. What this means is that all students, staff, faculty, residents (12+) and volunteers living and/or working on campus will require their first dose on or before 3 September.**

Our **Campus Health Centre** is working closely with local health authorities to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine access for all students, including a stop at a vaccination clinic for students completing quarantine and a vaccination clinic on campus for any student arriving on campus on 3 September. While COVID vaccinations are free to everyone in B.C., to maximize public and campus safety, we

continue to strongly urge all students who will be arriving on campus and have access to vaccinations in their own jurisdictions to get vaccinated BEFORE you come to campus.

Please also be aware that, as per Public Health and provincial government guidelines, unvaccinated employees or students without a valid medical reason, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO STUDY OR WORK AT PEARSON.

Keeping our Entire Community Safe

Proof of Vaccination – At Pearson, all COVID-19 vaccine eligible staff, faculty, students, residents and volunteers are required to be at least partially vaccinated (one dose) by 3 September and fully vaccinated (two doses) by CAS Week (beginning 25 October). Specifics of the proof of vaccination requirements are currently under development by the PHO. In the meantime, post-secondary institutions such as Pearson can implement their own requirements as part of their Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.

Vaccination Status Survey – The Director of Human Resources and Director of Health Services will be issuing vaccination status surveys to all employees, residents and students to assess the College's overall rate of vaccination. Survey results will be private and confidential for each individual and is important to help guide the College towards relaxations of rules on campus, allow for a greater range and number of activities and to inform our general health and safety (communicable disease) plan.

In all areas, the College will continue to follow guidelines and advice from the PHO and ministries of education and will take other actions to protect the community, including:

- The campus remains closed to unauthorized visitors. All guests and visitors to campus must be registered by an employee or resident and must fill out the College's COVID-19 Guest Survey and Waiver before coming to campus.
- Employees and students are no longer required to submit the automated online Daily Health Survey. Instead, everyone is responsible to conduct their own [self-health-check for Covid-19 Symptoms](#). Students, if you are sick, report to the Health Centre as soon as possible and notify your Houseparents. Employees, if you are sick, stay at home – do not come to work.
- It is your choice to wear a mask outdoors on campus.
- You are required to wear a mask indoors on campus as above.
- All indoor spaces should be well ventilated with doors/windows open (weather permitting).
- Be respectful of others and their personal space; everyone is moving through COVID-19 transitions at their own pace.
- Continue to follow posted directional and instructional signage on campus.
- Continue to wash your hands frequently and use one of the many sanitization stations when entering a building. Sanitize your personal work or study space before and after use.
- Maximum seating in the Dining Hall is 6 per table – plexiglass dividers have been removed. When the hall re-opens for lunch on 3 September, vaccinated (minimum of one dose) staff, faculty and residents are welcome to join vaccinated students (minimum of one dose) for lunch. Weather permitting, please consider eating outside to help reduce crowding.
- Maximum capacity signs for common indoor spaces will be updated before students return. Current guidelines are 50% of a room's maximum capacity – for example, 150 for the McConnell Theatre in the Max Bell building.
- Until further notice, students are restricted to the following areas for unaccompanied off-campus individual or group walking, hiking and biking – Weir's Beach and Matheson Lake/Lombard Drive on the Galloping Goose (**see maps attached**). **Supervised** trips off campus

for hikes, shopping and other excursions will be permitted and will require an approved COVID-19 safety plan.

- We are aiming to permit unsupervised individual and group student trips off campus in accordance with the College's standard safety sign out procedures by CAS Week in late October. However, this is dependent upon PHO guidance and, importantly, the College achieving full vaccination status by that time.

We appreciate your attention and your patience with these ever-changing guidelines that are intended to keep your student and our entire community health safe and open for the 2021-22 school year. We know that many of you are navigating pandemic-related challenges, not the least of which is understanding and complying with the many necessary measures that allow us to travel and to safely gather back on campus.

We will continue to keep you updated as best we can. Thank you for your continued support and contributions to student and community health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig Davis', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Craig Davis
President and Head of College