

09 December 2021

Update 1 – Winter Break 2021-22 Planning

Dear Parents/Guardians and Year 47 and Year 48 Students,

As the first term of 2021-22 comes to a close, we know that many of you are looking forward to Winter Break as a time to relax and enjoy activities with friends and family and, in some cases, new friends and Host Families. While the pandemic will not prevent or restrict Pearson College UWC students from travelling within Canada and abroad as it did last year, COVID-19 variants such as “DELTA” and “OMICRON” continue to have a disruptive impact on our daily lives and notably, our ability to travel domestically and internationally.

The purpose of this message is to provide updated information on College plans to support student travel to and from domestic and international destinations, student/family responsibilities and cost implications for travel and support for students who have requested a home stay option with a Host Family. **Costs for students on full financial aid will be covered by the College.** Please read carefully information below that is related to each of the Winter Break options:

Home Stay with Host Families

As of 09 December, 54 students have requested a home stay option and will be assigned Host Families with whom they will spend their Winter Break. While some students may spend their Winter Break with more than one Host Family, the College will ensure that all students who have requested this option will have home stay accommodation for the duration of the break. It is imperative that all students who have requested a home stay immediately provide any outstanding information required by [Dawn Boshcoff, our Host Family Coordinator](#) -- **please check your email for any messages from Dawn.** Host Family assignments and travel details will be confirmed by this weekend and communicated to parents and student contacts.

International Air Travel (Fully Vaccinated)

Departure - 196 students have completed the departure travel survey. For those travelling to an international destination, you must review and comply with pre-travel and travel requirements and regulations implemented by your airline(s), your connecting country(ies) and your destination country. **It is your responsibility to know and understand all health protocols and pre- and post-testing requirements as stipulated by each jurisdiction.** As announced earlier, departure dates from the College have been changed from a single day (17 December) to multiple departure dates (11-18 December) to accommodate recent regulatory changes for travel and to expand flight options.

Testing - The College will host an on-campus PCR Test clinic on 15 December for students booked to fly on 17 December, when it is anticipated most students will be departing. **Please notify Deanna Cuthbert as soon as possible to book your 15 December test.** Booking and payment details will be provided in advance. For students flying to and via the United Kingdom, there have been recent changes to U.K. COVID-19 testing requirements. Fully vaccinated travellers must take a COVID-19 test **2 days before**

travel to England. For example, a PCR Test on Wednesday 15 December will cover any departure time from Canada on Friday 17 December even if it exceeds 48 hours. For those connecting via the United Kingdom and remaining “airside” (i.e. you do not pass through U.K. border control), you need to take a COVID-19 test before you travel to the U.K., but will not be required to quarantine or take a COVID-19 test. Passengers entering or transiting through the U.S.A. must have a negative COVID-19 test taken at most **1 day before departure** from the first embarkation point. Tests accepted by the U.S.A. are *antigen, NAAT, RC-LAMP, RC-PCR or TMA*. **Please refer to your country of destination specific guidance on official government websites for full details and requirements, including possible post-arrival testing.**

Transportation and Payment – If your testing date or test requirement does not coincide with the 15 December on-campus PCR-test, the College will make every effort to provide transportation or assist you in getting transportation to your testing site. If College-provided transportation is not available, you are responsible for your transportation and transportation costs. With the exception of students on financial aid, all students are responsible for booking and paying for the cost of their COVID-19 test. Some testing service providers may allow you to book in advance and pay online. As noted, please contact Deanna Cuthbert for your 15 December booking or for any other questions you may have regarding COVID-19 testing. You will be able to pay for this test on campus. Booking and payment details will be provided in advance.

Return – Canada recently implemented **temporary border restrictions and measures to address the COVID-19 Omicron variant of concern**. The new requirements apply to all **fully vaccinated travellers** who have been in any country other than Canada and the United States in the 14 days prior to entry to Canada. Fully vaccinated travellers who are selected for arrival testing must quarantine in a suitable place until they receive a negative test result. **The Government of Canada is increasing the number of fully vaccinated travellers being selected for testing to reach 100% of vaccinated travellers in the coming weeks.** The Canadian government is covering all of the costs associated with arrival testing. As a result of this recent change, returning international students (except students from the U.S.) will be required to quarantine at the College’s pre-arranged quarantine facility (Hotel Grand Pacific), where chaperone and other student support will be provided until they receive a negative test result. Students will be responsible for transportation from the airport to the hotel and the cost of their room and meals while in isolation. **The College has negotiated a 2-night minimum set cost, which includes meals.** The College will cover the cost of chaperones and their room/meals. For students completing their isolation, the College will provide a once/day shuttle at a pre-arranged time (after “check out”) from the hotel to the College. Travel from the hotel to the College outside the daily shuttle schedule must be arranged and paid for by the student. **Please refer to the Canadian government website [ARRIVECAN](#) and download the ARRIVECAN app for up-to-date and detailed information on entering Canada from abroad.**

Return From International Destinations Example (Except from U.S.): Once a fully vaccinated student arrives at a Canadian airport from a non-U.S. foreign destination, they will either be swabbed by a public health nurse or get a take-home test. The student must then self-isolate at their designated quarantine destination (Hotel Grand Pacific) while they await the results of the test. It may take up to three days to get a result. If the student gets a negative result, they are free to leave self-isolation and return to the

College. If the test is positive, they must stay in quarantine for 14 days. If a student has a connecting flight to Victoria from their first Canadian airport arrival location, they will get swabbed or collect a take-home test and then continue to their final destination. If, for example, an inbound student from Europe arrives in Vancouver to catch a connecting flight to Victoria, that student would get tested or pick up their at-home test in Vancouver before proceeding to the connecting flight. That student would then have to self-isolate in Victoria at the Hotel Grand Pacific while they await the results of the test.

Domestic Travel (Fully Vaccinated)

To board your train or flight for travel to Canadian destinations, you must:

- be fully vaccinated with accepted vaccines
- be ready at any point in your journey to show your official proof of vaccination
- have received your second dose at least 14 full days prior to the day you travel
- have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- wear a mask

A COVID-19 test is not needed to board a flight or train in Canada unless you're flying to a country that requires it. If you fail to provide proof of vaccination (or valid COVID-19 test result if you have an exemption from your carrier), you won't be allowed to travel and could face penalties or fines. As of November 30, 2021, vaccination is required for travel within and to depart Canada. A valid COVID-19 molecular test will no longer be accepted as an alternative to vaccination unless you're eligible for one of the limited exemptions.

Academic Work

Students departing before 17 December are responsible for their academic work and assignments. Non-U.S. international students returning to Canada, who are required to isolate/quarantine at the Hotel Grand Pacific until COVID-19 test results are known will receive academic support for the period they are in isolation. Details on academic support to students in isolation/quarantine will be provided in a future update. In the unlikely but possible event that a student tests positive and is required to complete a 14-day quarantine, the College will work with the student, their family and local health authorities to identify academic support and less costly options for isolation.

Important Contacts

College - There is a lot of information in this message, which is subject to change at any time. Please continue to monitor changing conditions in Canada and elsewhere that could affect your travel plans. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding home stay, departure travel, testing, return travel or academic support, please do not hesitate to contact Deanna Cuthbert, Operations Manager at dcuthbert@pearsoncollege.ca, who will respond to your query or re-direct you to someone who will assist you.

Hotel Grand Pacific – For booking at the above rate, please contact the Hotel Grand Pacific ([HGP Reservations](#)) and let them know you are part of the **Pearson College Group**. Students/families are responsible to make bookings as part of your quarantine plan as required by the Government of Canada.

PEARSON COLLEGE



Full financial aid students are to contact Deanna for hotel bookings. **The Hotel Grand Pacific will open bookings for the Pearson College Group on 15 December.**

On behalf of everyone at Pearson College UWC, please accept my sincere best wishes for a safe and happy reunion with friends and family or, if you are staying with a Host Family, a very rewarding experience during this upcoming Winter Break. Your patience and understanding throughout every adjustment we make to operate the College during the pandemic are very much appreciated.

Warm regards,

Again, we look forward to seeing you soon. Safe travels everyone!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Davis".

Craig Davis
President and Head of College