

06 January 2022

## Update 3 – Return to Classes for the Spring Term

We are excited to welcome students back to Pearson for the spring term after what was a well-earned respite during the annual Winter Break!

With the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, the College is taking a series of temporary measures to enhance health and wellbeing protocols for the return to classes. We shared these with our student, student family and campus communities in detailed updates this week and we want to summarize these in this space.

Our diverse student body are gradually returning to campus from local homestays (thank you, volunteer Host Families!), or from their own homes across Canada and in international locations. While in-person classes were originally scheduled to begin Monday, 10 January we are moving temporarily to online learning for, we hope, no more than two weeks. This will help uphold Public Health protocols and advice by minimizing the number of people on campus as faculty and many administrative staff will be teaching and working remotely.

On campus, our Health Centre team is preparing to administer COVID rapid tests on a regular basis so that we can monitor our population and take quick action if necessary. As a precaution, and as required by the provincial Ministry of Advanced Education, we have designated a number of on-campus self-isolation areas to accommodate any student who tests positive while continuing to support their health, wellness and academic needs. Obviously, we hope these are not needed!

Across campus, we are temporarily limiting interactions between students in different residence houses students and re-instituting staggered dining and, in some cases, in-house dining. Physical activities -- essential for ongoing good mental health -- are on but, again with House rotation schedules in effect.

All of these measures were carefully considered by the Covid-19 Response and Operations working groups. Representatives of the groups, as well as College leaders, faculty and staff were set to discuss these necessary measures with students during an online Question and Answer session on 7 January.



Craig Davis  
President and Head of College