

14 January 2022

Covid Update – The Spring Term is Underway

As we begin our Spring Term, we continue to support short-term online learning and teaching and are welcoming back all our students to campus on a staggered basis.

As B.C.'s Public Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry noted, she, "believes the virus will become endemic after the winter months." While "the current wave of COVID-19 infections is expected to continue for several more weeks based on experience other areas," she added that "many people [in B.C.] who have contracted the Omicron variant of COVID-19 are fully vaccinated, [so] their illness has been relatively mild compared with those who are unvaccinated."

In response to Omicron, B.C. reinstated restrictions on gatherings and events until at least 18 January and directed schools and other businesses and organizations to reactivate their COVID-19 Safety Plans. On our campus, this means reduced staffing onsite, daily health checks, mask use and rapid antigen testing for students, residents and employees.

This week, Campus Health Centre testing confirmed two students, as of this date, have tested positive for COVID-19. They have been moved to the College's on-campus isolation space where they will be monitored for symptoms and overall health and supported academically. As a precaution, students in the House in which the positive students were identified will be isolated from other students, their outdoor activities temporarily suspended, and meals will be safely delivered to that House. Testing and monitoring will continue across the campus community.

In view of the highly infectious nature of Omicron and uncertainty of exposures, it was anticipated our testing regime would detect some positive cases even though students initially tested negative on arrival. With the rise of Omicron, the College prepared for positive cases to be identified and activated the health and safety outlined in earlier messages. As noted, the campus remains closed to non-essential visitors.

Health agencies across Canada continue to note that fully vaccinated individuals normally experience relatively mild symptoms if infected. With a robust health and safety plan in place and with all students and employees on campus fully vaccinated, we are doing our utmost to support students and provide a continuing and supportive learning experience.

Your ongoing support is important to our community – thank you!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Davis', is positioned above the printed name.

Craig Davis
President and Head of College