

Carleton University - Joint Health and Safety Committee and Union Leadership
COVID-19 Update Meeting #41 – January 11, 2022
Microsoft Teams, 10:00 am

The Executive Director ORM, Tony Lackey, chaired the meeting.

Given the special nature of the meeting, quorum was not required, although it was attained.

Tony's Remarks:

1. The new modified stage 2 provincial regulations do not have a major effect on the operations on campus. The most significant change is that employees and faculty should only work on campus on an as needed basis. The permissions are not as formal as it has been in the past, however employees and faculty need to confirm with their manager prior to coming to campus. If building access is needed, individuals are encouraged to contact Campus Safety.
2. Essential research is occurring in campus buildings. As of last week there were 450 individuals on campus working on campus.
3. Athletics remains closed until the end of the month. Currently there are only 4 open buildings on campus. This includes CTTC, UC, Richcraft and Residence Commons.
4. Approximately 500 students have checked into residence since the weekend. So far, approximately 1500 students have indicated they will not be returning to campus until then of January. Meals for students living in residence will be takeout from the caf is the only option.
5. Classes are remaining virtual until the end of the month. An updated announcement will be shared with the university within the next week to indicate what the plans are moving forward.
6. There are no vaccination clinics planned because of staffing and supplies shortages. Those that need 1st, 2nd, 3rd shots should work through the public health system to coordinate appointments. There are a lot of appointments available within the Ottawa area.

Nancy's Remarks:

1. EHS continues to do all contact tracing for employees/faculty.
2. The province has changed parameters for self-isolation. Originally Ottawa Public Health indicated that those who identify as a close contact need to isolate for 10 days. This was relaxed before New Years to anyone who lives in the same household with a positive case must self-isolate even if fully vaccinated. For those that do not live with their close contact, they are asked to monitor symptoms.
3. If an individual tests positive through a rapid/PCR test or shows symptoms, must consider themselves COVID positive and self-isolate and contact Environmental Health and Safety for next steps.
4. Public health is no longer doing workplace tracing with Carleton cases. Kristie Tousignant is responsible for student contact tracing and EHS remains responsible for faculty and staff contact tracing.

Questions:

1. **Since the province has announced that elementary and high school students will be returning to school on Monday, has there been increased pressure from university students about the return to campus?** There has not been increased comments or inquiries about the return to campus. Criticism from both ends continues about the return for classes and international

travel. ISSO has also been working closely with students regarding travel however travel has been limited until February for international exchanges.

2. **Does Carleton need proof of the booster shot?** We have not changed the definition of vaccination yet. We are waiting for the province to change their definition and then we will align with what the province decides. Currently approximately 30% of the population have their boosters, so we suspect that the province is likely waiting for more vaccination rates prior to mandating it. In the case the booster becomes mandatory, Thrive has been working in the background to support Carleton.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 10:00 AM**, Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment