

**Carleton University - Joint Health and Safety Committee and Union Leadership
COVID-19 Update Meeting #43 – February 2, 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. COVID Lead Suzanne Blanchard will be sharing a memo today with the following updates,
 - a. Classes will return on Monday February 7th as well as all employees up to level 3. Level 4 employees will be returning between February 7th and April 30th based on their departmental plans. All protocols that were in place prior to Christmas are still in place. There is a vaccination requirement of 2 doses to be allowed on campus. We encourage everyone to get their booster but cuScreen is still showing green if you have 2 doses. Uptake of boosters is not as high as the primary vaccine in the Ottawa area.
 - b. Health and Counselling Services is working with OPH to get booster pop up clinics on campus. Hopefully we will have a clinic on campus for employees, students and approved contractors over the next few weeks.
 - c. We still need to do cuScreen to be on campus. Everyone will need to continue to scan the QR codes when entering a building as well as at the final destination. If you are in an area for more than 15 minutes you will need to scan the QR code and show the green screen to ambassadors. There are directional signs around campus for entrances and exits.
 - d. We continue to ask students and employees to report symptoms through the symptom reporting tool in cuScreen.
 - e. If indoors, masks must be worn as per the policy. There are 3 ply medical masks and KN95 masks available for staff and faculty. The medical grade 3 ply masks are equivalent to KN95 masks. Managers will get about 5 masks per employee for a 2 week period; individuals are asked to wear their masks more than once as long as they are not soiled or wet. N95 masks are being provided only to individuals who require them for their position or job duties (i.e., specific to their research or dealing with individuals who are infected).
 - f. Hand sanitizer, wipes etc can be requested through eShop. Hand sanitizer stations will remain on campus. If anyone notices anything out of the norm or stations empty, please call FMP Service Centre at 3668 or 613-520-3668.
 - g. Cleaning protocols with FMP will be the same for cleaning buildings, classrooms, common areas and study spaces. Individuals are responsible for cleaning their personal areas such as their desk or chair.
2. The main air handling systems in all buildings have been fitted with high efficiency MERV-13 filters and systems are flushed 2 hours pre and 2 hours post occupancy. The 3rd party consultant results are expected for the March JHSC meeting.
3. Carleton has been flushing and testing the water in buildings for the presence of Legionella bacteria. The university follows the testing protocols as outlined in the Public Works and Government Services Canada Standard, MD15161 -2013 Control of Legionella in Mechanical Systems. Carleton conducts regular testing of our cold drinking water systems to ensure it is safe to drink. This will also be discussed in more depth at the March JHSC meeting.

4. Individuals who need to use the tunnels need to request tunnel passes through the Office of Risk Management. The Ambassador Program was not fully in place this week however the program will be back to full speed on Monday February 7th. We will have ambassadors Monday-Friday in the majority of the buildings as well as designated buildings on weekends.
5. The province is saying if you have symptoms to isolate for 5 days however medical guidance shows that it should be 10 days. We are going to manage this with our contact tracing through Environmental Health and Safety as well as Health and Counselling Services to determine whether individuals should continue to isolate after 5 days if they are continuing to experience symptoms. If you are not feeling well, please do not come to campus and make arrangements with your manager to work from home if you are well enough to work.
6. Classrooms should all have designated capacity listed on signs outside the classroom. Carleton continues to be conservative with capacity limits. This approach has capacity at less than 50% in each classroom. Information on the classroom guidelines can be found on the COVID-19 website.
7. Dining services will open February 7th. Starbucks in Residence Commons, Tim Hortons in Richcraft Hall, and Bridgehead in Nicol will remain open. The Caf will open with in-person dining for Residence students as of Monday. We will continue to open and monitor as the demands increase.
8. We will proceed with the phased return of units. Level 4 units will return between February and April based on department plans. Questions regarding your return should be directed to your manager.
9. Events will be allowed with up to 10 people focusing on core University mission activities. All events will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. We are continuing to take a conservative approach on all event approvals.

Questions:

1. **How public will the vaccination clinic announcements be? Could this possibly affect trucks coming to protest at campus?** This will likely be shared through an email on campus. We will not stop providing services to the community due to demonstrators, and vaccines are the best way to limit the spread of this virus. We have not seen any protesting trucks on campus. The trucker convoy did not come to campus, however there were a few pick-up trucks that cut through campus on their way to Colonel By. At CDCC there was a large truck parked there on the weekend, however it is now gone.
2. **Is there an ample supply of masks?** Supplies are challenging, so we ask individuals to ask for reasonable amounts of supplies so that all departments can be supported. Supply is low, but we are hoping by end of week we will have more stock. We have a lot of the ASTM Level 3 three-layer masks that provide excellent coverage and safety.
3. **Do all events have a max of 10 people?** Yes, all indoor events at this time.
4. **Who can purchase masks on eShop? Is there a shortage?** We are asking departments place their orders. Given there is limited availability, we are asking departments to order on a 2-week basis.
5. **Will the university make rapid tests available?** We have made a conscious decision that due to the difficulty of getting rapid tests, they will not be provided since they cannot be distributed on

a consistent basis. Since there are so many individuals vaccinated on campus, the spread on campus is minimal. Distribution, supply and accuracy provide a lot of challenges.

6. Can you confirm if people need to apply to have onsite meetings etc. for up to 10 people or can each department make those decisions as long as they stay within the 10 people?

Individuals will need to apply using the COVID Event form. For staff meetings of less than 10 people in a non-public space where they can be 6' apart and wearing masks a form does not need to be completed.

7. Who will enforce the tunnel restrictions since so many students are using this and no one is wearing masks? There will be a communication going out next week on this topic. We don't have the manpower to guard every door. We are trusting the community to respect the rules. If students are identified, Campus Safety can be called. Student Affairs and Residence Life are handling students on a case-by-case basis. If individuals see students improperly using the tunnels, please remind them. We know people are tired, however we need to remind students of the tunnel restrictions.

8. We need to be told what to do when individuals say they do not want to wear a mask especially given the situation downtown. Beginning next week ambassadors will be circulating on campus. The ambassadors are aware that Campus Safety can be involved if necessary. We do not expect faculty to enforce, however we will just ask individuals to remind them, then call CSS. Tony to confirm if there is an ambassador phone number to call. Tony to provide protocol to everyone on this call (see attached).

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 10:00 AM**, Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment