

**Carleton University - Joint Health and Safety Committee and Union Leadership
COVID-19 Update Meeting #45 – March 16, 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. We are going to maintain mask and vaccine mandate as well as have ambassadors on campus until end of term (May 1). We should know more next week however the hope is that all of Ontario's universities will take the same approach to the mask and vaccination mandates.
2. It has been recommended students who want to hold major events that they be moved outside the exam period so we can protect students until the end of the academic year.

Nancy's Remarks:

1. The university had our first spread of COVID-19 in our workplace. Despite being predicted based on the wastewater results. We are seeing an increase of cases in residence. This is the first time since the pandemic started, we have had a spread of the virus in the workplace. The transmission occurred at the pool where individuals were participating in instructor training. It appears that we have up to 7 individuals who have tested positive since the training, with mild symptoms or no symptoms. The university will continue to follow our mandates and report accordingly. The individuals have submitted WSIB claims. WSIB will adjudicate the claims.
2. Many individuals on campus have not updated their booster status in cuScreen. We are encouraging individuals who have their booster to input into cuScreen. Currently Ottawa has just over 50% vaccinated with a third dose. We encourage everyone to get their third dose.
3. The university is aware that there will likely be a surge in cases with March Break. This will affect the case count.

Questions:

1. **Is Ottawa Public Health continuing to contact close contacts?** No, they are not contacting individuals however EHS is contacting faculty, staff or affiliates who have reported symptoms. Health and Counselling is continuing to contact students.
2. **When end of term is mentioned, is that the end of classes or the end of exams?** End of term is the end of exams.
3. **What are the plans for masking with next week's change to mask mandates?** The policy is staying in place until the end of term since we are private property. We are educating the Ambassadors and putting more of them in buildings like Robertson Hall and the library to ensure individuals follow the guidelines.
4. **Can a communication about masks be shared?** We believe that a communication would be going out.
5. **In Dunton Tower there are a lot of meeting room requests. The room capacity is 8, however the room remains shut down. How should this be communicated? Is it safe to assume the capacity limit is still 8 for this room?** Wait until next week where a decision will be shared, and we will know more. The consensus is that we will follow what other post-secondary institutions across Canada decide. If unsure, direct individuals to Conference Services.

6. **When you say protect with masks, do you mean that you want to protect the students who come for their exam?** The logic is that others should wear a mask to protect you from spreading any virus to those who could be affected.
7. **When you mention the case count, wastewater testing was mentioned. Are cases counted from the wastewater testing?** We count the total based on how many people declare they have COVID not based on the water. Wastewater testing has been used extensively to monitor COVID trends.
8. **Could we promote the research from the wastewater, or can a communication be shared about the research being done?** There have been several communications shared about Dr. Banu Örmeci's research. It is shared regularly on the Carleton website.
9. **When Ontario's post-secondary institutions come to a consensus, will Carleton follow with what they decide?** If some schools open more than others, students may transfer which is a concern. There is still the opportunity for us to take our own path. We are hoping that the consensus is to maintain some restrictions.
10. **What will happen with the Ukraine situation for colleagues that want to do research, teaching trips as well as students in Europe? Will the university restrict or put restraints on travels?** Currently there are no restrictions for travel to Europe. We are continuing to encourage individuals to register in the Carleton Travel Registry and International SOS. Individuals are advised to review the risks for travel and work with an agency for plan to evacuate in the case it is needed. Suzanne Blanchard shared an email February 24 about travel and a Top 5 announcement was shared about the International SOS Ukraine microsite.
11. **We have concerns in the library about educating students on the campus policy/guidelines beginning Monday.** There will be an update shared next week from the university. Additional Ambassadors will be deployed to monitor activity on the floors.

The next meeting will be a regular JHSC meeting on **Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 9:00 AM**, Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment