

**Carleton University - Joint Health and Safety Committee and Union Leadership
COVID-19 Update Meeting #46 – April 13, 2022
Microsoft Teams, 10:00 am**

Director of Environmental Health and Safety Nancy Delcellier, chaired the meeting.
Given the special nature of the meeting, quorum was not required although it was attained.

Nancy's Remarks:

1. Nancy reminded us of the International Day of Pink. The day seeks to end all bullying, anti-LGBTQIA+ bullying.

2. Nancy provided an update related to new COVID restrictions and protocols.

The most recent communication was sent out on March 29th planning to suspend all mandates starting May 1st, 2022. The University will continue to monitor all developments between now and then, but continue status quo until May 1st, 2022.

The sixth wave is spreading throughout the greater community and the University is monitoring the levels. The province released messaging encouraging every individual to get vaccinated, a new screening tool has been implemented to allow the high-risk individuals to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Individuals are encouraged to limit contact, wear masks indoors, and stay home if you are sick. Expanded PCR testing for individuals that are over 18 and are immune compromised and/or lack full vaccinations.

The potential is high for further communications coming out prior to May 1st

Questions:

Q1 - Are the unions part of the consultations? All union leadership has the opportunity to voice their concerns and feedback that can be brought to the Return to Campus committee. The COVID update meeting space is the forum.

Q2 - Will communication be posted regarding outbreaks, wastewater testing and when to allow professors sufficient time to prepare their summer syllabus? The numbers that were previously provided were based on PCR testing. The data coming in suggests that the rapid tests are less than 50% accurate. Due to this lack of accuracy, the University has stopped posting these numbers. Every individual that does submit a symptom reporting form is being followed up with individually and following up with possible close contacts within the community. Although not reported on the webpage, they are being tracked and reported to senior management.

End of March reported cases were in the 300 range and by April 11th there were 39 cases.

Q3 – Can a sign be posted on an office door requiring masks be worn to enter this space?

The University is working on guidelines to be able to accommodate individuals in this area.

Q4 – Are capacity limits and masking being considered together or separate?

The University increased capacity limits for the winter term. Capacity limits have changed across the province. The University is reviewing the capacity limits for specific events and maintain a reasonable approach to ensure the safety of the community. None of the signage for capacity limits has been removed, in the event that it is needed again.

Q5 - When will the flexible work policy go into effect?

Human Resources provided an update.

Feedback from JHSC Members:

- 1) It was suggested to add a communication on the website explaining why the outbreak and wastewater reports will no longer be shared.
- 2) It was suggested that a means be identified to allow a person to be anonymous, when asking for accommodations such as, a mask to be worn in a particular class as someone may be compromised.
- 3) Concerns were raised around the following areas: removal of masking policy, removal of case numbers on the web page and the continued return to campus considering the current case trends in the city.
- 4) It was noted that individuals who are ill are opting to work from home rather than take sick leave. It was suggested that communications be sent to advise staff to take sick leave to help their recovery.

The next meeting will be a regular JHSC meeting on **Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 10:00 AM**, Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment