

**Carleton University - Joint Health and Safety Committee and Union Leadership
COVID-19 Update Meeting #47 – April 27, 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. As per previous announcements shared from the university, most COVID-19 restrictions will be removed as of Friday April 29. The Mask Policy will continue to remain in effect.
2. Communications were shared with managers requesting that faculty, staff and students who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms continue to complete the Symptom Reporting form within cuScreen so absences due to illness can be better tracked
3. This has been the most challenging time throughout the pandemic to manage and balance COVID-19 on campus due to the approach that the provincial government and Ottawa Public Health have taken. This has been discussed with senior management at the Steering Committee and the Return to Campus Committee, so management is aware of the challenging situation.

Nancy's Remarks:

1. April 28th is the National Day of Mourning which provides the opportunity to reflect and think about individuals who have been injured, ill or lost lives while working. Carleton will have their flags at half-mast to recognize the day of reflection.
2. The Steps for Life – Threads for Life walk will take place this Sunday May 1. This will be a virtual 5k walk where funds raised will go to families affected by workplace tragedy.
3. Next week (May 2-6) is Safety and Health Week, Mental Health Week, and Emergency Preparedness Week. The Top 5 highlights activities occurring for the week.
4. To reiterate what Tony has said, it is very important that people use the Symptom Reporting form for those that have tested positive or finishing their isolation. Currently we have 32 staff and faculty who have tested positive or finishing their isolation. The process is for close contacts to self-monitor for 10 days from date of exposure. There is no need to self-isolate. The only exception is with the quarantine act and international travel, if advised to self-isolate.
5. Please remember to submit nominations for the Health and Safety award.

Questions:

1. **What questions are asked to define close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual?**
Definitions keep changing; however we ask who you have been with, were masks worn at the time, were you together for more than 15 minutes (with masks), are you coughing profusely, etc. We try to ask as many questions as possible to determine if people are close contacts.
2. **I have been in close contact with about 7 COVID-19 positive individuals within the last week. There was no email shared with our department about numerous staff testing positive however this would have helped to know to be more cautious and vigilant due to an outbreak in our department.** We contact trace with staff however more messaging should have been shared with FMP. In the future we will dig a little deeper to include a message.
3. **Can someone please share the link to the Safety and Health Week activities?** Linda added the following link to the chat: <https://carleton.ca/ehs/safety-and-health-week-2022/>.
4. **If someone has travelled internationally, will they need to quarantine for 10 days?** No however if someone has entered Canada with a non-approved Canadian vaccine or they are not vaccinated, this will dictate where they need to quarantine upon re-entry.

5. **Where there are no symptoms or close contact with COVID-19 positive individual(s) are we required to continue to screen before coming to campus after May 1?** No, after May 1st there is no requirement to continue to complete the daily screening on cuScreen. We are continuing to recommend and encourage individuals to continue to do screening daily to know whether you should be on campus and further limit any spread.
6. **How do we know that people read the Top 5?** We don't because it is a public notice board that requires individuals to subscribe. This is the method of communication that the university uses. The Faculty-Staff Intranet is a secure network for faculty, staff and contract instructors to remain up-to-date with daily campus news and events. Employees may also gain access to their HR information (leave balances, access to benefits forms and job postings), subscribe to news feeds and personalize their profile, to name a few.
7. **The university should invest more of their budget into communications and social media to increase graphic design on our communications. The systems used are not overly reassuring with privacy and surveillance causing paranoia about sharing data.** The Office of Risk Management is currently developing a communication plan which will include social media. We are hoping to have this running by the fall.
8. **What is the protocol with sanitizing of rooms with restrictions being lifted?** There has been a lot of discussion around cleaning. FMP is currently awaiting a decision on funding to determine the level of cleaning that can be provided.
9. **When will the report of Air and Water be shared?** A link has been shared with all the documents. Nancy will be sharing this link after the meeting with the presentation and documents used. This link should not be shared because it is a secure link with technical information that should not be shared publicly.
10. **How are the foot operated hand sanitizer stations filled? We are being told some are empty.** FMP needs to be notified when these stations are empty at extension 3668. We respond to these reports quite quickly. It is the expectation that custodial night staff are testing and filling the units to ensure they are still functioning. Citron will continue to be responsible for testing, filling, and maintaining their sanitization stations. There is a contractual obligation for inspections so if there are any issues, please contact FMP 24/7 at the extension 3668 or from a cellphone the phone number is 613-520-3668.
11. **Although the COVID-19 total daily cases are no longer on the website, why are you asking individuals to still report? Could this number be shared with the committee?** This was a decision made by the Steering Committee however we will bring back this input to at least inform the JHSC of the total count.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 10:00 AM**, Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment