

DATE: January 22, 2021

TO: Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon, President
Dr. Jerry Tomberlin, Provost

FROM: Dr. Lorraine Dyke, Deputy Provost (Academic Operations and Planning)
Chair, Carleton University Scenario Planning (CUSP) Working Group

RE: Planning recommendation for Summer 2021

The Carleton University Scenario Planning (CUSP) Working Group was asked to consider the most appropriate planning parameters for the Summer 2021 term. Based on a review of the current situation, CUSP recommends that Carleton continue the approach adopted for the [Fall](#) and [Winter](#) terms, specifically, that we plan for a predominantly online Summer term. We anticipate that some on-campus learning may be possible depending on public health developments.

The second wave of COVID-19 is currently setting records. [Globally](#) and [nationally](#), daily case counts have exceeded the peaks experienced in the spring. [In Canada](#), we are seeing increases in the percentage of people testing positive for the virus, confirmed cases, hospitalizations and deaths. The Public Health Agency of Canada has projected that [cases could reach 60,000 per day](#) if Canadians increase their social contacts. The government of Canada considers the [risk to Canadians](#) high. Across the country more restrictive public health measures have been implemented in many regions.

At the same time, there have been promising developments in immunization. Multiple vaccines have been approved for use and vaccination programs are rolling out across Canada and the world. At present, the pace at which immunization will proceed is unclear; however, it is expected to be at least September before the majority of Canadians will be vaccinated.

Until such time that the majority of our community has been vaccinated, the best way to protect the health and wellbeing of students, staff, faculty, and the broader community is to continue to limit close personal contact. Public health guidelines regarding physical distancing will continue to significantly limit the capacity of campus spaces.

As a consequence, we recommend that:

- Carleton should plan for remote delivery of most academic courses and programs in the Summer 2021 term.
- If circumstances permit, some courses or portions of courses may be delivered in-person. On-campus teaching should be voluntary for instructors. Proposals for on-campus teaching should be reviewed by the Deans and approved by the COVID-19 Steering Committee prior to initiation to ensure that public health guidelines can be met. Instructors in these courses should be prepared to pivot online at short notice if public health guidelines change.

- Campus access for graduate students who require the use of on-campus research facilities should continue to be a priority.
- Online student services and programming should be extended through the Summer term.
- Online teaching and learning supports should continue to be offered by Teaching and Learning Services.

CUSP will continue to monitor the implications of the evolving situation for our successful operations.