

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# **GUIDANCE FOR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS**

### Overview

As post-secondary institutions consider resuming in-person educational services, it is critically important that they understand the potential for spread of COVID-19 on their campuses, follow the public health guidance below, and review their programming to keep everyone, especially the most vulnerable, safe. This guidance supplements guidance given in the [Workplace Guidance for Business Owners](#).

Despite the allowance for resumption of in-person classes, post-secondary leaders are encouraged to continue to hold classes remotely and limit in-person attendance on campus as much as possible.

### COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

General Safety	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Post-secondary institutions may resume in-person instruction or blended in-person/online instruction, so long as:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A physical distance of two metres is maintained at all times between all individuals who are physically present.</li><li>• The maximum number of people in a room or educational space at one time, with appropriate physical distancing, is 50 people or fewer.</li><li>• If two or more individuals are required to come within two metres of one another for the purpose of instruction, practice, or undertaking examinations, additional protections must be instituted such as engineering controls (barriers or partitions), administrative controls (adapting the activity to minimize or eliminate close contact), or use of PPE by all individuals in close contact.</li></ul></li><li>• Before re-opening to in-person attendance, post-secondary institutions should establish their own COVID-19 plans, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adaptations to educational programming and spaces to meet maximum attendance and physical distancing requirements.</li><li>• A schedule for enhanced cleaning and disinfection of high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces.</li><li>• Plans to identify and manage illness in educational, residential, food service, and recreational settings on campus.</li><li>• Plans for staff and students isolating or quarantining on campus (if applicable).</li></ul></li><li>• Staff, students, visitors, and volunteers who access the post-secondary institution for work, education, recreation, or residence should screen for symptoms every day that they enter the post-secondary institution using <a href="#">AHS' COVID-19 Self-Assessment</a>.</li><li>• Any individual experiencing <a href="#">symptoms</a> of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition is required by law to follow Alberta's <a href="#">isolation</a> requirements.</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-secondary institutions should develop an online orientation for students and faculty returning to campuses that addresses expectations and shared responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• To support accurate contact tracing, staff, students, visitors, and volunteers should be encouraged to download and use Alberta's voluntary contact tracing app, <a href="#">ABTraceTogether</a>.</li> <li>• Post-secondary institutions must keep contact information for all staff and students, and keep daily attendance lists for in-person classes.</li> </ul>
<b>Resuming in-person Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-secondary institutions should institute controls to ensure physical distancing between all attendees in areas in and outside of the classroom, including hallways, washrooms, and common areas. This could include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staggering start and end-times for classes, if possible, to avoid crowded hallways.</li> <li>○ Posting <a href="#">signs</a>, using barriers and marking floors.</li> <li>○ Removing and restaging seating in public areas to prevent gathering.</li> <li>○ Limiting bathroom occupancy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas in and outside classrooms.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer should be provided at classroom entrances and exits, and proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be promoted.</li> <li>• Additional distancing or barriers may be necessary depending on how lecturers and instructors interact with students.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For example, drama or musician instruction may require additional hazard protections.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Practical Learning Experiences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical learning experiences may resume as long as the risk of infection can be mitigated for all participants.</li> <li>• The maximum number of people in a practical learning space at one time, with appropriate physical distancing between all individuals, is 50 or fewer.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If the practical learning space is in a workplace, the participant is expected to follow health rules set out by the workplace.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If two or more individuals are required to come within two metres of one another for the purpose of instruction, practice, or undertaking examinations, additional protections must be instituted such as engineering controls (barriers or partitions) or use of PPE by all individuals in close contact.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The time that individuals are in close contact should be kept to a minimum.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who are required to participate in aerosol-generating procedures or work with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients as part of their learning experience (e.g. medical residents or nursing students) have the option to defer the practical learning experience. Institutions should offer this choice without penalty.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If the student chooses to participate in these activities, appropriate controls and/or PPE should be provided where the services are undertaken, along with instructions for how to use them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use of shared items or equipment should be avoided. Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use and users should perform hand hygiene before and after each use.</li> </ul>
<b>Responding to Illness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All post-secondary institutions are required to have detailed plans for a rapid response to illness and outbreaks on campus and in associated student residence. For a sample COVID-19 Rapid Response Plan, refer to Appendix A of the <a href="#">Guidance for Managers and Operators of Industrial Work Camps</a>.</li> <li>• Staff, students, and others should be reminded that anyone who starts to experience symptoms associated with COVID-19 while onsite or staying in residence must immediately isolate at home or in residence.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Symptomatic individuals should be directed to use AHS' <a href="#">COVID-19 Self-Assessment</a> or contact 811 for screening and testing, and notify the post-secondary institution or residence.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If the post-secondary institution learns that two or more staff or students have become symptomatic and have a known location link (e.g. inhabit the same residence or attend the same class), the institution is expected to notify Alberta Health Services (811).</li> </ul>
<b>Residences and Dorms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once Canada lifts travel restrictions and non-essential international travel resumes, residences may wish to re-open two weeks before in-person classes start to allow international students to complete their quarantine period.</li> <li>• Residences must have rooms dedicated to allow for symptomatic residents and residents with COVID-19 and their close contacts to isolate. Procedures to support isolating residents, including delivery of meals, laundry, and washroom use must also be prepared.</li> <li>• Steps must be taken to reduce the use of shared spaces such as bathrooms and kitchens.</li> <li>• The number of occupants in a residence should be limited and residence rooms should not be shared, unless by members of the same household.</li> <li>• Residences are expected to adopt an enhanced cleaning and disinfecting schedule for all shared spaces and high-touch surfaces.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residences are expected to keep up to date contact information for all residents and should keep records of visitors, repair persons and delivery personnel who enter the residences.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residences should consider “no-visitor” or “essential visitors only” policies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Common recreational areas within residences such as game rooms and TV rooms should be closed due to the difficulty of enforcing physical distancing in these spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Food Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-secondary institutions with dining halls/food service must have plans in place to mitigate the risk of infection spread in these facilities before they can re-open. Suggestions include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple, staggered meal services to reduce the number of people in the dining area at one time.</li> <li>Encouraging diners to take their meals to other areas for consumption.</li> <li>Posting <a href="#">signs</a> to encourage physical distancing, manage the flow of people, and divert people from high-traffic areas.</li> <li>Spacing out seating and line-ups.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Food service providers and licensed drinking establishments on campus must adhere to <a href="#">public health orders</a>, the <a href="#">Food Regulation</a> and the <a href="#">Guidance for Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs and Bars</a> when relaunching.</li> <li>The seating capacity in dining halls and sit-down dining areas must be reduced to no more than 50% of the normal capacity.</li> <li>Self-serve buffets and food stations are not allowed. Food must be served by staff to diners in pre-packaged or individual portions.</li> <li>Where physical distancing cannot be maintained (e.g. between staff who serve food, and diners) additional protections must be instituted such as engineering controls (barriers or partitions) or use of PPE by servers.</li> </ul>
<b>Sports and Recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports practices and outdoor activities may proceed in accordance with <a href="#">sector-specific guidance</a>.</li> <li>Sport events and competitions must not take place in Stage 1.</li> <li>For more guidance on outdoor sports and recreation, refer to the <a href="#">Guidance for Outdoor Recreation</a>.</li> <li>Gyms, pools, recreation centres, theatres and arenas must remain closed until Stage 3.</li> <li>Large art and culture events, concerts, and major sporting events are not permitted in Stage 1.</li> </ul>

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<b>Campus Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The following amenities remain closed in Stage 1:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Libraries,</li><li>○ Gyms and indoor recreational facilities, and</li><li>○ Theatres.</li></ul></li><li>• Social gatherings that occur in the buildings or grounds of the post-secondary institution must adhere to the <a href="#">Restrictions on Gatherings</a>.</li><li>• <a href="#">Guidance for Day Camps</a> is provided for summer camps hosted by the post-secondary institution.</li><li>• Daycares and out-of-school care programs at post-secondary institutions must abide by the <a href="#">Guidance for Licensed Child Care Centres</a>.</li></ul>
<b>International Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Once Canada lifts travel restrictions and non-essential international travel resumes, staff and students returning from international travel are permitted to conduct their 14-day quarantine in the residence, provided that <a href="#">isolation requirements</a> and <a href="#">public health orders</a> are followed.</li></ul>

