Public Health Guidelines for On-Campus Teaching in Fall Term 2020

Background
Students in professional and graduate programs will receive face-to-face on-campus instruction in the Fall Term 2020:

• Medicine
• Nursing
• Rehabilitation Therapy (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy)
• Graduate programs
• Law

Public health guidelines will be followed in all planning for face-to-face interactions between faculty members and students and within groups of students. The general principles are to decrease transmission of the virus (and influenza or other respiratory viruses) as much as possible and to prevent large outbreaks.

Assumptions for Classroom Use
The following assumptions apply to all classes being offered in person in Fall Term 2020, using both central and Faculty/School-owned classrooms. If a Department, School or Faculty is planning to schedule any in-person classes for Fall Term 2020, these assumptions must be followed.

1. Physical distancing will be required between instructors and students (the current measure of 2 meters between students and instructors reduces classroom capacities to between 10-15%). Students must distribute themselves within the classrooms to a maximum of 5 people per 1000 sq. ft. to limit the spread of the virus, should someone become unwell.

2. There will be limits on numbers of individuals in a classroom (groups are currently limited to 5; we are expecting the limit to be raised to at least 30 by September to make on-campus teaching viable).

3. Rooms will have to be cleaned between each class use (back-to-back classes cannot therefore be taught, depending on the time to clean each room; all scheduling will have to be centralized). Regular cleaning of high touch surfaces between classes will be needed.

4. Hand sanitizers will be needed in classrooms or at least at the entrance to all classrooms/buildings.

5. There will need to be controls over how students enter and leave classrooms to avoid crowding and breaching the physical distancing guidelines.

6. Fixed seats are preferred over movable seats and desks, with spacing enforced by marking out seating that should not be used.

7. The use of cloth masks may be considered. There is some evidence that the use of masks may help to reduce the spread of illness.