

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Deputy Minister

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Sous-ministre

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MEMORANDUM TO:

Presidents, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology
Linda Franklin, President and CEO, Colleges Ontario

Executive Heads, Publicly-Assisted Universities
Steve Orsini, President and CEO, Council of Ontario Universities

Université de l'Ontario français
Université de Hearst
Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Executive Heads, Indigenous Institutes
Laurie Robinson, Executive Director and Chair,
Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council
Wendy Johnson, Executive Director, Indigenous Institutes Consortium

Registered Private Career Colleges
Representatives of Private Designated Learning Institutions
Shikha Jain, Chief Executive Officer, Career Colleges Ontario
Gonzalo Peralta, Executive Director, Languages Canada

Other Private Postsecondary Education Institutions

FROM:

Shelley Tapp
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Colleges and Universities

DATE:

August 31, 2021

SUBJECT:

Postsecondary Education Health Measures Framework for Fall 2021

I am writing today to share with you the *Postsecondary Education Health Measures Framework for Fall 2021* to support the continued health and safety of students, faculty, and staff. This Framework has been developed in consultation with the Office of the

Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) and includes a copy of Instructions from the OCMOH to postsecondary education (PSE) institutions regarding mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies.

In accordance with the Instructions issued by the OCMOH, all PSE institutions—with the exception of Indigenous Institutes—are required to have mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies in place effective September 7, 2021. Any PSE institution that does not have a policy in place by September 7, 2021 will not be in compliance with s 2. (2.1) of Schedule 1 and Schedule 4 of [O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step](#) under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19 Act, 2020\)](#).

Earlier in the summer, the ministry communicated with PSE institutions that assuming the continued progress of provincewide vaccination rates and continued improvements in key public health and health indicators, that it was anticipated that all in-person instruction and on-campus activities at PSE institutions would be permitted to resume without capacity limits or physical distancing requirements starting this Fall.

While the ministry acknowledges the incredible efforts being made by PSE institutions to continue to keep their respective PSE communities safe, today the ministry is communicating some changes in direction with respect to this Fall.

Step 3 Requirements

Amendments have been made to [O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step](#), which will, effective September 7th, 2021, remove physical distancing and capacity limit requirements for indoor instructional spaces (e.g., classrooms, labs, etc.) at PSE institutions other than Indigenous Institutes. This applies to indoor instructional spaces only. Step 3 requirements for outdoor instructional spaces remain the same.

Outside of these specific changes, PSE institutions continue to be subject to all other Step 3 requirements, including masking indoors. As always, PSE institutions are encouraged to consult with their legal counsel on interpreting any applicable legislation. It is also strongly recommended that PSE institutions consult with their municipality and local medical officers of health about any applicable local requirements.

I appreciate that institutions may have made plans for the Fall for a greater return to in-person activities (both academic and otherwise) and that the changes related to indoor instructional space exemptions may not fully align with your planning assumptions. I also understand that notwithstanding these changes, some PSE institutions may still have to amend plans for the Fall with limited time until instructional and other campus activities resume.

While the ministry is aware of these concerns, this direction is based on consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH), the Ministry of Health, other government partners and in consideration of supporting both the benefits of in-

person instructional activities at PSE institutions and the need for continued vigilance and emphasis on health and safety.

Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policies

As noted above, in accordance with the OCMOH Instructions, institutions must have their vaccination policies in place no later than September 7, 2021. PSE institutions are required to develop and implement a COVID-19 vaccination policy that applies to individuals defined in the OCMOH Instructions — employees, staff, contractors, volunteers, and students — who attend campus. Further details to support the development and implementation of vaccination policies at PSE institutions are included in the Framework.

PSE institutions will be required to report aggregate and non-identifying data to the ministry on a monthly basis with respect to vaccination policies. In the coming weeks, the ministry will communicate more information about reporting requirements.

Technical Briefings

Given the issuance of this Framework and recent developments including requirements for mandatory vaccination policies, the ministry is offering technical briefings to PSE institutions to help and support institutions with implementation and to answer questions.

Technical briefings will be held on the following dates and times. Invitations will be sent to the addressees of this memo. The ministry will also hold a session for bilingual and Francophone publicly-assisted colleges and universities. The ministry is asking that institutions limit attendance to no more than two people per institution:

- Publicly-assisted colleges and universities, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities: Thursday September 2nd from 9:00 am to 10:00 am
- Registered Private Career Colleges, Private Designated Learning Institutions, Career Colleges Ontario and Languages Canada: Thursday September 2nd from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Other Private Postsecondary Education Institutions; Thursday September 2nd from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- Bilingual and Francophone publicly-assisted colleges and universities, Université de l'Ontario français and Université de Hearst: Thursday September 2nd from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Following the technical briefings, ministry staff will be happy to continue answering questions as needed.

Contact Information

PSE institutions may contact the Ministry of Colleges and Universities through the contacts listed below:

- **Publicly-assisted colleges and universities and other private institutions** – Ivonne Mellozzi, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch, at Ivonne.Mellozzi@ontario.ca.
- **Indigenous Institutes** – Barry McCartan, Director, Indigenous Education Branch at Barry.McCartan@ontario.ca.
- **Private Career Colleges, Language Schools, and other Designated Learning Institutions** – Laura Adams, Director & Superintendent, Private Career Colleges Branch, at pcc@ontario.ca.

While I appreciate that the COVID-19 trajectory has resulted in changes to certain planning assumptions, I am grateful for your continued efforts in adapting your policies and procedures to align with applicable requirements and this new Framework. I know that we will continue to work together to ensure that all members of your PSE communities—students, faculty, and staff—are as safe as possible.

Sincerely,



Shelley Tapp
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Colleges and Universities

- c: Ari Laskin, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
Kelly Shields, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Education Division
Tamara Gilbert, Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education Learner Supports Division
Ivonne Mellozzi, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch, Postsecondary Education Division
Laura Adams, Director & Superintendent, Private Career Colleges Branch, Advanced Education Learner Supports Division

Attachments:

- *Postsecondary Education Health Measures Framework for Fall 2021*
- Instructions from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health