

Question and Answer for Staff

1. Will rapid testing or rapid tests be provided to instructors and staff?

At this stage we will not be making COVID-19 rapid antigen testing kits available to instructors and staff. Instructors or staff who are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and follow guidelines for testing.

Free test kits are available at AHS Public Health in Grande Prairie and Fairview, select pharmacies, and the Grande Prairie AHS COVID Test Centre (located in the old Servus Credit Union building on 102 Avenue). You may collect one kit per family and can confirm the closest location [online](#).

If you are sick, are symptomatic, or test positive, please notify your Chair and Dean for any course delivery implications.

2. Will N95 respirators or other upgraded masks be provided to instructors?

Facilities will provide each department with a box of 100 triple layer disposable masks during the week of January 24, 2022. Additional triple layer masks can be provided to departments as required. Please reach out directly to Facilities.

The Alberta government has requested that medical masks be kept for health care workers, people providing direct care to COVID-19 patients, and people who have a [high risk of experiencing severe illness](#). You can complete the online assessment and if a doctor's note indicates you need an accommodation, we will assist you with enhanced masking requirements.

3. In larger classes is it possible to ask students to alternate in-person attendance so that we can encourage physical distancing?

We cannot ask students to stay home. An alternative room may be available to enhance spacing and we ask that you please work through your Dean.

4. Are we able to notify classes if a student in the class discloses that they have tested positive for COVID-19?

If a student in a classroom discloses to you that they have tested positive and if they consent to you informing others, the class may be notified. We cannot disclose personal information without an individual's consent.

5. Can we ask students displaying symptoms to leave the classroom?

If a student displays symptom(s) they can be asked to leave the classroom. If a person

refuses to leave, security may be contacted to assist. Instructors should be mindful of the possibility that a student may have a pre-existing condition or other medically diagnosed conditions that presents with similar symptoms to COVID-19.

6. If I do not feel safe can I stay home?

Throughout the pandemic the COVID response team has reviewed and balanced provincial guidance and the advice provided by Alberta Health Services.

We carefully considered the health and safety of staff and students and with the layers of protection offered by our new vaccination-only mandate, namely returning to campus and addressing individual illness and absenteeism as it occurs.

Vaccines have provided us with an opportunity to return to a pre-COVID way of life. We have made the decision for instructors and students to return to campus and they will likely be joined by all staff on campus by the conclusion of winter break.

7. What action should be taken if someone is not wearing a mask?

If you feel comfortable approaching the individual, you may ask them to mask. Security may also be engaged to approach the individual.

8. Is anyone checking the vaccination status of visitors to the campus?

All contractors and campus visitors must confirm vaccination status. If an individual is invited on campus, then the responsibility lies with the individual who invited that guest.

9. If we know someone has tested positive and shared a work or learning space, can additional cleaning be requested?

Facilities can arrange additional cleaning support as necessary. Our contracted custodial company has already enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of public high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces, and recently increased our disinfection schedule.

In addition to the regular custodial schedules, departments can choose to implement additional sanitizing and disinfecting of workspaces and related high-touch surfaces. Facilities – Maintenance and Operations can provide approved disinfecting/cleaning supplies to each department. Please note that if a product is transferred from its original container, a label identifying the contents must be applied.

10. What is the process should close contacts be following?

Close contacts are not legally required to isolate if they are double vaccinated and present no symptoms. The latest guidance related to isolation and quarantine can be found [here](#).

11. What can be done to continue to deliver programming if instructors or students become unwell?

Please have a conversation with your Dean and Chair about illness contingencies. To date, some faculty have recorded their lectures, set up Zoom for the class (if the room is not configured already), posted information online, and/or used MyClass or Google Classroom/Meet. Faculty are required to teach on campus starting January 24 unless excused for illness.