

Subject: Potential Impact of COVID-19 on Conferences and Events at Sheridan College

Dear Colleagues,

The designation of COVID-19 as a pandemic has, understandably, generated questions regarding the appropriateness of holding conferences and events at Sheridan. As we continue to balance our obligations to foster student success, create an environment that supports people's health and well-being, and enable Sheridan to function as a premier postsecondary institution, we continue to follow the advice and direction of public health officials.

Yesterday, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released the following guidelines: [Risk-informed decision-making for mass gatherings during COVID-19 global outbreak](#). Please review this document and use it as your guide to determine whether or not to move forward with previously scheduled events and to assist you in your decision making regarding your planning for future events.

At this time, PHAC has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as **low** for the general population in Canada but this could change rapidly. There is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for Canadians:

- aged 65 and over
- with compromised immune systems
- with underlying medical conditions

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer is in close contact with provincial and territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health to ensure that any cases of COVID-19 occurring in Canada continue to be rapidly identified and managed in order to protect the health of Canadians. In this regard, please understand that the guidelines regarding events may change at any time, without notice. We will communicate these changes to you as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your thoughtful and ongoing support as Sheridan navigates this rapidly evolving situation.

Warm regards,
Kathryn