

Program and Service Updates for Students re COVID-19

Information Sheridan <info.sheridan@sheridancollege.ca>

Mon 3/16/2020 10:18 AM

To: all-students-in-class@list.sheridaninstitute.ca <all-students-in-class@list.sheridaninstitute.ca>

Dear Sheridan students,

We have been working all weekend to discuss important changes to program and service delivery. Our efforts support calls from public health authorities for 'social distancing' in order to interrupt the chain of transmission of the virus among the wider community. We are doing our part to protect vulnerable individuals by ensuring that our healthcare system will not become overburdened.

Alternative Delivery for Teaching and Learning

Classes are suspended from March 16-20. Beginning March 23, classes will resume using alternative methods of delivery.

Not all of our programs can be fully taught online due to their hands-on learning requirements. Your professors will be working throughout the 'break week' of March 16-20 to finalize term completion plans. Stay tuned for details regarding your particular program, which will be shared as soon as they are available.

Any assignment that was originally due between March 16-20 will have its deadline extended. Students may still submit their assignment according to the original deadline, but there will be no late penalty applied for not doing so. Professors will communicate new deadlines to their classes.

What's Closed

The following closures/cancellations have been announced:

- Our Libraries and Learning Commons spaces are closed until further notice
- Our Teaching and Learning spaces (Computer labs, fabrication spaces, studios etc.) are closed until further notice
- The Athletic Therapy and Animal Care clinics are closed until further notice
- Field placements in FAHCS are suspended until further notice
- Field placement in the Office Administration programs at the Pilon School of Business have been cancelled.
- Sheridan's Childcare Centres are closed from March 14-April 5 inclusive
- Recreational, sports and fitness facilities are closed until further notice
- All on-campus events, ceremonies and conferences are cancelled until April 30, 2020
- Spring Open House on April 4, 2020 is cancelled
- Campus Tours are cancelled until further notice.

What's Open

- All Sheridan campuses and business operations
- The Campus SafeWalk service will continue
- The Sheridan Shuttle will continue to run
- Food Services will be open on campus, with reductions in hours
- The IT Help Desk will continue to operate according to regular hours.

Self-Study

A number of resources have been compiled by our Library and Learning Services team, to help students keep up their studies during the week of March 16-20. Please visit:

<https://sheridancollege.libguides.com/digitallearning>

International Travel

Based on the guidance of public health officials, Sheridan is advising all members of its community to avoid all non-essential travel abroad and to avoid all cruise ship travel.

International Student Permits

The Government of Canada has advised that study being delivered online on an exceptional basis because of measures related to COVID-19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit Program eligibility for a post-graduation work permit.

Self-Isolation

Given the increased demands on our public health system, the need for students to provide medical (sick) notes is immediately suspended.

If you have travelled from anywhere outside of Canada, including the United States, please self-isolate for 14 days.

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, difficulty breathing), please call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or your primary care provider's office.

Call ahead prior to visiting any healthcare provider and let them know about your travel history and symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, difficulty breathing) so they can make special arrangements to see you quickly, provide testing, and ensure that they use proper infection control measures.

Self-Care

We understand that this situation can cause anxiety and distress. Please remember that there are services and resources available to support you.

Remote student support can be arranged via email at askanadvisor@sheridancollege.ca or by calling The Centre for Student Success at:

- Trafalgar B104 -- (905) 845-9430 ext. 2557
- Davis B230 -- (905) 845-9430 ext. 5400
- HMC A247 -- (905) 845-9430 ext. 2528

Empower Me is another service that allows students to connect with qualified counsellors, consultants, and life coaches for a variety of issues. As a Sheridan student, you are entitled to sessions that can be delivered by telephone, by video-counselling, or by e-counselling.

How do I access this service?

- Call the 24/7 helpline at 1 (844) 741-6389 (toll-free) from anywhere in North America to be directly connected to a trained counsellor—the person answering the phone is not an operator, administrator, or receptionist.
- Log in to the Empower Me website https://ear.powerflexweb.com/1545/login_SC.html and use "Studentcare" as the password.
- Download additional Empower Me student assistance tools on the iAspiria mobile app. Enter "Studentcare" as the Login ID and select "Student" in the drop-down menu.

Keep.me SAFE by guard.me is available to support international students with mental health challenges as they adapt to study and life in Canada. Keep.me SAFE provides confidential and private service to students with 24/7 access to multilingual and multicultural experts, so that students may discuss their challenges and concerns with someone who speaks their language and understands their culture. Access support by one of the following methods:

- Download My SSP App from Apple or Android store
- Calling 1-844-451-9700, or
- Visiting www.keepmesafe.org

Cleaning

Sheridan has an extensive pandemic plan and protocols, which were first activated in January and have continued to be in effect and have been escalated as the situation has evolved. In addition to existing cleaning protocols, we are conducting a deep clean of our campuses during the week of March 16-20. Enhanced use of hand sanitizer and gloves is in place. Additional hand sanitizer stations are being installed around campus.

Parking Fees

As a result of the suspended classes from March 16-20, there is no change to long term parking permits (Annual, 1-Semester Winter, 2-Semester Fall/Winter, 2-Semester Winter/Spring) as they already have an extra week added to make them valid for the first week of the following semester. Expiry dates will be extended for an additional week or equivalent to 1 session for FCAPS students for Short-term Permits (Evening Semester, Apprenticeship Permits, and Monthly Permit). Please send all parking-related inquiries, to parking@sheridancollege.ca or call us at 905-845-9430 (TRA- x2233, DAV- x4412, HMC- x4099).

Inclusivity

Sheridan is a respectful and inclusive community, where we value and celebrate diversity. Our first principles of empathy, inclusiveness, fairness and awareness of the consequences of our actions are our guide for both individual and collective behavior. Please continue to act with compassion and kindness.

Ongoing Updates

Our dedicated [Coronavirus landing page](#) is Sheridan's primary and authoritative resource for updates. Please visit it often as information changes quickly and frequently. Copies of all communications are archived to the site, which also includes a robust FAQ. Questions regarding our Coronavirus response can be sent to careandwellness@sheridancollege.ca.

A new Coronavirus hotline has been established and can be reached at **905-815-4009**. It can also be accessed by calling the main Sheridan number and selecting menu item 6.

This is one of the most challenging situations that Sheridan has had to navigate in its 50+ year history. Due to the highly unpredictable and fluid nature of this pandemic, further changes to our alternative plans may still be required.

I am confident that by working collaboratively and with kindness, we will all get through these challenging and unprecedented times. Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Janet Morrison
President and Vice Chancellor