

March 17, 2020

Subject: Update to Students re: COVID-19

Dear Sheridan community,

Thank you for your ongoing patience as leaders across Sheridan continue to formulate plans for delivering courses and services under a new operating model.

This email details the latest updates for Sheridan students. Please note that Sheridan's response may differ from that of other colleges and universities in Canada as each institution is taking actions that align with local incident and transmission rates, which differ greatly.

What's Open and Closed

- Sheridan's on-campus Health Centres remain open, with screening protocols in place
- April shows at Theatre Sheridan are cancelled
- All graduation shows and year-end award banquets and ceremonies that were scheduled to take place prior to April 30 are cancelled
- The physical offices of Sheridan's research and incubation centres (CAMDT, Centre for Elder Research, CMI, CMTP, EDGE, and SIRT) are closed
- The EDGE drop-in space is closed
- In-person music theatre auditions are being replaced by virtual/video auditions

Academic Withdrawal

Sheridan is extending the deadline to withdraw without academic penalty from March 20 to March 27. This one-week extension will allow students time to understand the implications of the alternate delivery methods and term completion plans for specific courses. In addition, no advising will be required; students will be able to withdraw, in all instances, without seeing an adviser. At this point in time, Sheridan is not offering refunds for course withdrawals.

Collection of Personal Items

Sheridan is working diligently to avoid large gatherings of people in accordance with social distancing efforts aimed at interrupting the possible transmission of the COVID-19 virus. However, students who have personal items on campus in lockers or in storage within our teaching and learning spaces may return to campus to collect their belongings from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. during the week of March 16–20. Campus buildings will be open during that timeframe with security on-site.

Assessment Centres

Sheridan is currently rebooking all tests scheduled in the Assessment Centres for the week of March 16–20. No student will be penalized for missing a test that was previously scheduled within that timeframe.

International Students & Insurance

We are deeply aware of the many challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic poses for our international students. All medical expenses for COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment are covered under the guard.me International and Global A and B policies.

We will be sending a separate communication shortly to international students with more details regarding Sheridan's efforts to support those who wish to remain in Canada throughout the pandemic.

Self-Care and Kindness

We understand that this situation is causing anxiety and distress. In addition to the many supports that were shared yesterday (and that can be found in the FAQ list on Sheridan's Coronavirus landing page), the following resource is available for Indigenous students who are seeking support: <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca/>

We continue to urge every member of our Sheridan community to be kind, avoid speculation and speak out against instances of discrimination based on misperceptions and stereotypes. Please report any such instances to equity@sheridancollege.ca or call 905-845-9430, ext. 2229. This is key to safeguarding our community during this very difficult time.

Course Evaluations & Surveys

Sheridan is cancelling all course evaluations for the Winter term. The NSSE survey remains open and active for any students who wish to participate.

Continuing and Professional Studies – Winter Term

All Continuing and Professional Studies classes have been suspended for the week of March 16–20. Starting the week of March 23, all face-to-face classes will transition to online / alternate modes of delivery. We anticipate fully delivering Winter 2020 courses and completing them on time. Withdrawal and refund rules are being waived for this term. If you wish to withdraw, please fill out the form [found here](#).

Ongoing Updates

This situation remains very fluid; you have my word that we will continue to communicate openly and often as things change.

Please continue to visit our landing page coronavirus.sheridancollege.ca frequently. It is the primary resource for information regarding Sheridan's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community health and wellbeing is paramount. Your continued understanding as we navigate this unprecedented time is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Janet Morrison
President and Vice Chancellor