

Employee Email – March 19

Dear Colleagues,

At the risk of inundating you, I'm sending another email today to provide additional updates regarding our plans for operating under what has quickly become our collective 'new normal'.

Continuity of Pay – Clarification

We're aware that an earlier announcement about a continuity of pay until April 5 (which was tied to the end date of publicly funded school closures in Ontario) has caused some confusion. This assurance was aimed at non-teaching part-time staff. We will provide a further update on the period beyond April 5 as soon as possible.

Individuals with teaching contracts that extend beyond April 5 will continue to teach and, as such, will continue to be paid per the terms of their contract.

Laptop Redeployment

While this situation has been incredibly stressful and worrisome for many of us, I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to all those employees who volunteered to give up their Sheridan-issued laptops. These machines are being cleaned and temporarily re-issued to staff who require them for business continuity purposes or to students who don't have home computers, nor access to libraries or computer labs under Ontario's state of emergency. I'm heartened to know that this pandemic is bringing out the best in so many.

Spring Convocation

We're sure that many of you are worried about June Convocation. We are too. Given the volatile and unpredictable nature of this pandemic and the primacy of this pivotal milestone, we have made the difficult decision to move our June Convocation ceremonies to October 2020. We cannot risk proceeding with a ceremony in June, only to find out that travel bans remain in place or that large gatherings of people are still prohibited. More details will be shared in the weeks ahead, but students who have not yet applied to graduate, should do so now.

Childcare Centre – Pause in Fees

Individuals with children enrolled in Sheridan's Childcare Centres will not be charged for the mandated provincial closure period of March 17-31. If this situation applies to you, you will be contacted directly. We will provide a further update on the period beyond April 1 as soon as possible.

Community Employment Services

To help reduce the risk of community transmission of the virus, the Government of Ontario has declared that all of its Employment Ontario funded facilities -- including Sheridan's Community Employment Services -- have been ordered closed, effective immediately. As elsewhere, these

staff will be moving to alternate service delivery and are included in our continuity of pay efforts.

On Campus Food Services

All in person food services on campus have been suspended, effective March 19. New options are available for food order and delivery for students who remain in residence.

Athletic Memberships

To honour lost access to Sheridan's Athletic Centres, employees who have purchased memberships will have their expiration dates extended by the duration of the forced closure. If you would like to empty your locker, you are encouraged to do so today or tomorrow (March 19 or 20. (Please remember that you will need to sign in at security, self-assess and declare you are healthy, and show your OneCard.)

As we're all quickly learning, a week is a really long time in a pandemic! No doubt, things will continue to change, requiring us to further adapt and pivot. None of us has all the answers but I'm confident that each of us is doing our best, based on the latest evidence. And while there's no vaccine for COVID-19, our everyday actions can have a great impact on reducing the possible spread, protecting ourselves, and keeping our community safe. While our physical classrooms, libraries, laboratories and offices may be closed, I know how hard everyone is working to adapt to new ways of teaching, learning, living and doing business. Thank you for your herculean efforts.

Please keep your questions coming to: careandwellness@sheridancollege.ca or to our dedicated phone hotline at 905-815-4009. We have a team of people who are working hard to address concerns. We're also using your queries to constantly refresh our FAQs for everyone's benefit, which can be found on our landing page at sheridancollege.ca/coronavirus

Stay well and continue to make smart choices about your personal safety. I really miss seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,
Janet Morrison
President and Vice Chancellor