

March 25, 2020

Email to employees

Subject: Updates on Academics

Dear Sheridan Community,

I continue to worry about the health and wellbeing of every member of our learning community – past and present. Federal, provincial and municipal leaders and health authorities continue to stress that much of the COVID-19 containment and recovery depends on each of us doing our part to flatten the curve of transmission.

To that point, you've heard the calls for 'social distancing'. As many of you already appreciate, 'social distancing' is really 'physical distancing'; the Government of Canada defines it as limiting the number of people you come into contact with, maintaining a distance of two meters from others, and avoiding non-essential trips outside of your home.

The expectation is clear, yet a recent [Leger poll](#) reports that 3 in 10 Canadians are not practicing social distancing. On Monday, the Public Health Agency of Canada reported that 44 per cent of all COVID-19 cases in the country are the result of community transmission, meaning they have no link to international travel. This means people could contract the virus while visiting friends or while out shopping.

Please, Sheridan: do your part and stay apart.

Academics

While the Premier of Ontario has ordered non-essential workplaces to close for 14 days (effective 11:59 pm on March 24), remote operations are permitted to continue. In light of this announcement, I want to confirm that Sheridan's winter term is proceeding through alternate/remote delivery.

There are also numerous discussions underway regarding further adjustments to deadlines for dropping courses without academic penalty and for paying fees/deposits for the spring and fall terms. Leaders are carefully considering a delayed start to the spring term to allow for the completion of winter courses and the submission of grades.

As I hope you can appreciate, there are many dependencies and implications that need to be carefully considered. We do not have final decisions to share yet. **Please continue to be patient and afford us the time we need to make well-thought out adjustments. You have my word that as soon as we make pertinent decisions, we will share them with you through established channels including my regular updates and social media.**

Parking Fees

Parking charges are being suspended from employees' payroll deductible as of the next pay period. When we resume regular operations, your deduction will be delayed for two weeks to reflect the amount charged while you were not on campus during the past two weeks.

Stay Informed

We are doing our best to share the latest updates without overwhelming you at a time when everything is constantly changing.

Please remember that every email we send is archived on our [COVID-19 site](#). The FAQs on the site are also updated daily – at a minimum – to include new information as it becomes available. Please continue to check those resources before reaching out to front-line staff to ask questions; everyone is working feverishly to keep pace with rapidly changing circumstances and we need to think carefully about managing our resources.

To date, we've had over 50,000 reactions (questions, comments and shares) to our COVID-19 updates on twitter and Facebook. Daily, your feedback is shared with the Emergency Operations Committee. It informs decision making and ensures that those leading Sheridan through this pandemic have a full understanding of your needs.

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read our updates.

Stay strong everyone.

Sincerely,

Janet Morrison
President and Vice Chancellor