



Halton Region Public Health
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

July 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Vaccination of Sheridan College Students for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

As colleges and universities prepare for students to return to in-person learning and on-campus living for the 2021-2022 academic year, it is critical to ensure high rates of two-dose COVID-19 vaccination among the student population. Vaccination is highly important to ensuring an ongoing decline in cases.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impact on Halton region and its residents. Throughout much of the third wave of the pandemic, overall case volumes and incidence rates have been highest among 20 to 39 year olds. While COVID-19 tends to be less severe in younger people, variants of concern that emerged in Ontario's third wave have led to an increase in ICU admission rates across all age groups. Furthermore, community transmission has been impacted by the higher contact rates among younger populations.

College and university residences pose unique risks for COVID-19 transmission, as they are high density, contain shared common spaces, and may present challenges to effective self-isolation of students infected with the virus. For these reasons, high rates of two-dose COVID-19 vaccination coverage among the student population (ideally greater than 90%) will be necessary to prevent local outbreaks in the upcoming academic year.

Sheridan College Trafalgar Road Campus is an integral component of the Halton community. Halton Region Public Health shares a common goal with your college of keeping students, and the broader community safe. We are supportive of your organization pursuing policy options to facilitate the highest vaccination coverage possible among the student population, especially students who choose to live on-campus in residences.

Thank you for all that you do to support the health and safety of students and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hamidah Meghani".

Dr. Hamidah Meghani,
Medical Officer of Health