

July 30, 2021

CityU's Communicable Disease Plan

INTRODUCTION

City University in Canada is committed to provide safe and healthy environments for all members of the university community. In alignment with the [BC Restart plan](#) and the Post-Secondary [Return-to-Campus Guidelines](#), and following [WorkSafeBC](#) requirements, we have created the communicable disease (CD) plan which outlines the ongoing prevention measures that everyone needs to follow as we transition from prescriptive COVID-19 safety measures to general communicable disease prevention measures that are guided by public health.

As CityU in Canada continues to transition from COVID-19 specific orders and protocols back to normal institutional policies and guidance as outlined by the Ministry in their Return to Campus Guidelines, we at CityU believe that stopping the spread of COVID-19 relies on everyone doing their part, including: immunization, daily self-administered health checks, staying home when sick, and practicing hand hygiene.

SCOPE

This CD plan applies to all staff, faculty and students of CityU including in- person instruction and related academic activities, and administrative and operational services.

This CD plan is effective as of July 15, 2021 and replaces all existing COVID-19 safe work plans (SWPs).

During the transitional months of July and August the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and WorkSafeBC are recommending employers still maintain some existing safety measures as we gradually and safely ease restrictions in anticipation of the full return to campus activities in the fall.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

Communicable disease prevention focuses on basic risk reduction principles to reduce the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The fundamental components of communicable disease prevention include both ongoing measures to maintain at all times and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health during periods of elevated risk. CityU return to campus committee will regularly monitor and review communicable disease information from public health authorities, and update the campus community of any changes affecting university activities, including updating the CD plan as required.

ONGOING PREVENTION MEASURES

Supporting employees and students to stay at home when sick

- All staff and students must continue to do a daily health self-assessment.
- If you are ill or have symptoms of a communicable disease (e.g. fever and/or chills, recent onset of coughing, diarrhea):

- please stay home
- notify your supervisor/instructor of your absence
- consult the COVID-19 self-assessment tool to see if you should get tested, and contact 811 if you require medical advice
- Instructors should follow established protocols to support student absence due to illness.
- For those employees who are able to work at home while they are recovering from their illness/symptoms

Please review the [COVID-19 Go-Forward Guidelines for B.C.'s Post-Secondary Sector](#) to know more about **hand-washing and hygiene practices and routine cleaning**

Building Ventilation (HVAC Systems)

- Following the direction of WorkSafeBC and the PHO, institutions must ensure that building heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are operating and maintained in accordance with WorkSafeBC requirements and relevant ASHRAE Standards.
- As the weather permits, windows may be opened to also improve air circulation and where it does not interfere with the proper functioning of an HVAC system.

Supporting Vaccination

- Getting vaccinated is the most important tool supporting the BC Restart Plan.
- The university encourages everyone who is eligible and able, to consider vaccination to protect yourself and others.
- employees are [entitled to up to three hours of paid leave](#) to be vaccinated against COVID- 19, if required.
- Note: the COVID-19 vaccine is not mandatory in order to study, work, visit or live on campus.
- [Learn more about the benefits and safety of the vaccine](#)

RESPONDING TO ELEVATED RISK

- The level of risk of certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19, may elevate from time to time or on a seasonal basis. This may occur at a local or regional level or within a workplace.
- In addition to maintaining the ongoing prevention measures, CityU committee will monitor public health information and be responsive to any further directives from the local medical health officer or provincial health officer which could include, for example, implementing enhanced cleaning measures, distancing requirements or masking guidance.
- Any changes to prevention measures during periods of elevated risk will be promptly communicated.

COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING

- This CD plan will be available on the university website and shared widely with CityU community.
- Leaders should ensure that everyone on their teams have reviewed the CD Plan and understand and follow the measures in place.

- The prevention measures will be reinforced through campus signage, social media and other communication tools on a regular basis.
- Individuals should report any health and safety concerns to their supervisor, who is responsible to follow-up and address any concerns.