

COVID-19 Readiness Plan



Last updated July 9, 2021

INTRODUCTION

During the unprecedented pandemic of Covid-19, Assiniboine Community College's (ACC) number one priority is to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and the broader community.

The following document outlines Assiniboine Community College's Covid-19 readiness plan for incoming International students. This plan has been developed based on the Government of Canada's *Guidance for Post-Secondary Institutions During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, as well as requirements, guidelines and advice from the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Public Health.

Assiniboine understands that this is a rapidly evolving pandemic and we are committed to continuously monitoring the situation. We are prepared to adapt and modify our plan to continue to align with Provincial Public Health Orders, as well as advice from federal and provincial health officials.

The Manitoba government has informed Assiniboine that they have established a mechanism to approve our readiness plan to welcome international students. Assiniboine plans to continue dialogue with the department of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration in order to ensure our plan continue to meet requirements and to verify our ongoing adherence to federal requirements.

It has also been noted by public health that the Manitoba health system currently has capacity but future capacity and readiness for outbreak response would depend on the number of incoming international students and the current case count.

The Manitoba government has implemented a pandemic response tool that uses the colours green, yellow, orange and red. At each level, public health officials have a range of restrictions that could be imposed on different sectors, including at post-secondary institutions.

The province will update the provincial response level in response to the spread of the virus and other public health indicators. Information on Manitoba's Pandemic Response System is available at gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/system/index.html

PRE-ARRIVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Before international students arrive to begin their studies, they will have received an email with Assiniboine International's pre-arrival information package, which includes a travel checklist. This checklist provides our students with key information for pre-departure, while in transit, upon arrival and during their 14-day quarantine. This information is also available in PDF form and kept up-to-date on the college's website page: <https://assiniboine.net/study-here/international-students/accepted-international-students>

PRE-DEPARTURE FROM HOME COUNTRY INFORMATION

To travel to Canada, international students must have a valid study permit or were approved for a study permit on or before March 18, 2020 and prove to the airline and border authorities that travel to Canada is essential.

Starting in late June 2020, accepted international students were sent information about the Canadian and Manitoban legal requirements for 14 days of quarantine. This information, along with any new or updated information is sent regularly to all incoming students.

Students are asked to arrive a minimum of 15 days prior to the "Student Begin" date for their chosen program, this allows for the student to comply with the Federal Quarantine act and complete their mandatory 14-day quarantine period (if applicable) regardless of their vaccination status. During this time, all students have been asked to closely self-monitor for symptoms. As per the Federal government requirements, all incoming travelers must have a detailed quarantine plan which includes information such as, where they will stay for the entire duration of their quarantine, how they will get to their final destination, how they will obtain necessities, such as groceries, and if needed, how to access essential services or medical care. Students have been asked to share their Quarantine plan with Assiniboine College as well as to input this information into their ArriveCAN app. Effective January 7th, 2021, all individuals five years of age or older traveling to Canada via air travel, must provide proof of a negative laboratory test result for COVID-19 to the airline before boarding international flights to Canada. The test must be taken within 72 hours of the traveler's scheduled departure time. Documentation may also be requested by a Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) Officer upon arrival in Canada at the port of entry. Individuals who have a negative test result and have been authorized to enter Canada are still required to complete the full, mandatory 14-day quarantine period as per the Federal Quarantine Act, unless otherwise directed by the government of Canada. More details regarding the new mandatory test requirements and a list of recognized testing sites around the can be found on the government of Canada website: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying#test>.

Arriving International Students have been asked to download the ArriveCAN app on their device and check in within 48 hours of their arrival. Information on how to use ArriveCAN can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>

Students are required to have health insurance that is valid from their first day in Canada. It is recommended that all students carry hand sanitizer and a number of face masks.

TRANSPORTATION

All arriving students have been provided with information on how to safely travel from the airport to their quarantine location. It is the responsibility of the student to choose and cover the cost of their transportation. Students are required to make the decision regarding their transportation method prior to arrival and include it in their quarantine plan, which will be reviewed by the CBSA Agent at the point of entry. Our travel checklist and quarantine resources includes a list of transportation options, including a preferred rate negotiated with Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Assiniboine has advised students that they should travel in a private vehicle if possible. Although it is not recommended for students to use a taxi's or hotel shuttles, if it is the only option available to them, they may use vehicles for hire as long as they are not displaying any symptoms. If a student is symptomatic upon arrival and does not have access to private transport, they are directed to call Health links – Info Santé. Students who do need to use a vehicle for hire should: sit in the back seat on the passenger side, travel alone, open the windows (if weather permits), use alcohol-based sanitizer before and after travel, wear a mask, place their own luggage in the trunk and have a cashless transaction. Transportation options will be updated immediately using further information provided by the province of Manitoba.

QUARANTINE PLANS

As stated above, the federal government requires all incoming travelers to have a prepared quarantine plan, this applies to all arriving international students regardless of vaccination status. Although students must prepare their individual plan on their own, Assiniboine has provided our students with a list of resources (with links) in Brandon for planning quarantine (e.g., accommodation, transportation, food provision, health resources, remote banking, internet and cellular remote set-up) and links to government and college websites, ensuring they are able to meet federal government requirements.

PLACES TO QUARANTINE

The Manitoba government in partnership with public health has created a list of hotels that are suitable for quarantine. This list was provided in late August and will be added to our information package for arriving students.

Although Assiniboine Community College does not have a residence available, College managers met with Brandon University managers to confirm the use of BU Residence's quarantine facilities and services. Information regarding this option is sent to students included the residence's information, costs and contact name. These isolation rooms are self-contained with access to a private washroom.

14-DAY QUARANTINE PERIOD

Effective Feb 22nd, 2021 all students entering Canada will be tested at the airport upon arrival and be required to spend a minimum of 3 days in a federal quarantine facility at their own expense pending a negative result. If the student tests positive, they may be required to stay longer in the federal facility. If the student's results are negative, they may continue on to their final destination (Manitoba) to complete the remainder of the 14

day quarantine period as per the federal government's Quarantine Act. Students have been advised to self-monitor for symptoms, check in on their ArriveCAN app and to stay connected with our student supports.

Effective July 5th, 2021, the Government of Canada announced new rules for travelers entering Canada. Travelers who meet the Government of Canada requirements of fully vaccinated travelers may qualify for certain exemptions to quarantine and testing requirements. Students are encourage you to stay up-to-date on how this may impact their arrival into Canada. The Government of Canada's website is the authorized source for this information. <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/covid-vaccinated-travellers-entering-canada>

To be considered fully vaccinated, travellers must have received the full series of a vaccine [approved by the Government of Canada](#) at least 14 days prior to entering Canada. Currently, those vaccines are manufactured by Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). If students have received their approved vaccines outside Canada, proof of vaccination must be uploaded digitally in ArriveCAN and must only be in French or English, or certified translation into French or English. At this time, there are **no exemptions** from testing, hotel stopover or quarantine for travelers who have not received the full series of a vaccine or a combination of vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada.

Students are required to provide a quarantine plan regardless of their vaccination status. Final determination of whether or not an individual qualifies for the exemption is made by a government representative at the border.

As of January 4th, 2021 the government of Manitoba has recommended that all travelers entering or returning to Manitoba be tested upon arrival, and again 7 days after arrival regardless if they are displaying symptoms. Students are guided to call health-link and proceed as directed or they can review the list of testing locations online at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/testing/index.html#appointment>. Re-testing is advised by public health if an asymptomatic individual develops symptoms at any point, unless they have already tested positive. As this is a rapidly evolving situation, we are encouraging all students to refer to both the provincial government (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/orders/index.html#self-isolation>) and federal government (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice/mandatory-hotel-stay-air-travellers.html>) webpages for the most up to date information.

Assiniboine may contact local authorities or the RCMP to notify them of non-compliance. Students will be informed of potential penalties, if they violate or fail to comply with the Quarantine Act. Maximum penalties, according to the government of Canada website include a fine of up to \$750,000 and/or imprisonment for six months, and/or being found inadmissible, removed from Canada and banned from entering for 1 year. Further, a person who causes a risk of imminent death or serious bodily harm to another person while willfully or recklessly contravening this Act or the regulations could be liable for a fine of up to \$1,000,000 or imprisonment of up to three years, or to both.

SELF-MONITORING

Assiniboine continues to refer all members of the college community to official, up-to-date public health information regarding expectations for self-monitoring online on the provincial government's website.

https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/factsheet-isolation-selfmonitoring-returningtravellers-contacts.pdf

Students in quarantine will be provided with the link and encouraged to use the shared health online screening tool to assist in their self-monitoring. <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

Should a student develop symptoms, they have been directed to contact Health Links - Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 and proceed as directed by public health.

POSITIVE CASE DURING QUARANTINE

Any student who begins to develop symptoms while in quarantine have been advised to call Health links – Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 and proceed for testing if directed. If a student, or co-arriving family member tests positive, they will be contacted by public health and directed to self-isolate, unless they require medical care and/or hospitalization. Individuals who test positive may need to isolate longer than the initial 14-day quarantine period.

All international students who attend Assiniboine Community College will be covered by guard me insurance. Students will be covered for a 12-month period, starting on the first day of the program start month. Coverage is valid for the full 12 months, even if the student leaves the college or graduates before that date.

Students who arrive in Canada early are strongly advised to purchase early arrival insurance and students who graduate after 12 months are strongly advised to extend the insurance.

From the guard.me website:

Guard.me will cover all new and emergent conditions and medically necessary treatment, including COVID-19.

Coverage for COVID-19 does *not* include costs associated with self-isolation, a mandated quarantine, or asymptomatic testing. Private accommodation and day-to-day expenses (food and non-emergency transportation) are not eligible for reimbursement. Only new and emergent conditions and medically necessary treatments are eligible. This includes private-duty care by a qualified nurse if it is medically necessary and prescribed by a licensed medical professional.

Assiniboine students can also access the Maple Mobile Doctor service to decrease the necessity to use in-person health services. From guard.me's Manitoba Account Manager:

Seeing a doctor on Maple is safe and reliable, and can help prevent the need to go to a walk-in clinic, doctor's office or Emergency Room. Students have access to doctors, Canada wide, on their phone or laptop anytime, anywhere. The average wait time to see a doctor is 3 minutes and average length of visit is 18 minutes. Maple doctors are safely and accurately able to diagnose and address the majority of common illnesses / medical issues including writing a virtual prescription.

More information on guard.me coverage can be found at <https://www.guard.me/acc>

More information on guard.me coverage related to Covid-19 can be found at <https://www.guard.me/covid-19.php>

Students, or co-arriving family members may be required to isolate separately and for longer than the initial 14-day quarantine period. Those who are positive cases should expect to be contacted by Public Health for contact tracing and wellness checks. Students or family member(s) who had been in quarantine with an individual who tests positive will be considered a close contact and should expect to be contacted by Manitoba public health and may need to continue to quarantine longer than the initial 14-day quarantine period.

Assiniboine's International department staff, including the International Student Service Advisor, the International Coordinator, and the International Student Intern will work together to complete daily wellness checks on students in quarantine or isolation. Any unexpected expense such as rooms and meal costs due to the student or family member(s) testing positive for COVID-19 will be the student's responsibility.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

Assiniboine International staff will check in daily with students who are in their quarantine period, to provide a friendly touch point, see how they are doing physically and mentally and if there are needs these students have that can be serviced by the college or other providers in the community. Students are reminded to regularly self-monitor for symptoms using the online screening tool

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/> or by calling 1-877-308-9038.

Resources for students are available on the college's website at <https://assiniboine.net/covid-student-resources>

ADDRESSING STIGMA

All students learn about the college's Respectful College policy (M10). This presentation has been updated recently to include information relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic. Should any student have concerns about being stigmatized and/or discriminated against, the college employs a Respectful College Coordinator with extensive Human Rights Commission background. She will educate further and conduct investigations as needed. To contact the Respectful College Coordinator, email respect@assiniboine.net.

The college has made COVID-19 quarantine requirement information, checklists and resource lists available to all students and staff, on the college website. College managers have messaged that anyone could be required to quarantine based on public health orders, not only international students. All campus community members are reminded regularly to be kind to one another during this unprecedented time.

- Links: [Respectful College – Policy](#) and [Covid-19 Response & Updates](#).
- More Links for Addressing Stigma in Appendix C

ADHERENCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS POLICY

The Government of Canada has enacted the Quarantine Act, which identifies the requirements for travelers arriving from outside of Canada. The Province of Manitoba's Public Health Act outlines expectations for travelers to Manitoba. If Assiniboine is made aware that an international student, or other campus community member who may have travelled internationally, is not adhering to the Federal Quarantine Act, Assiniboine may contact the RCMP and/or local and provincial police, and note that these authorities can ticket travelers

who break quarantine under the Contraventions Act, or charges can be laid against a traveler for breaking quarantine under the Quarantine Act, which can result in penalties of up to \$750,000 or up to 6 months in jail, or both.

Assiniboine has adopted a policy titled, 'Adherence of Members of the College Community to Public Health Orders'. This policy outlines the college's expectation that members of its community (e.g., students, staff, contractors, affiliated organizations, and visitors) will adhere to public health orders. The college will liaise with appropriate public health authorities as required, should it come to the college's attention that an individual is in violation of a public health order. The college will also reinforce the obligation of the individual to comply. This policy also outlines the reporting process should a member of the college community suspect an individual may be in violation of public health orders. This policy was communicated out to all staff and students in September 2020, and is available on the college's website at assiniboine.net/policies.

POST-QUARANTINE PERIOD

STUDENT SUPPORTS

Assiniboine has a range of student supports that can be accessed by both domestic and international students, in addition to international student specific supports. Some of the most relevant supports are detailed below:

1. ACCs proud to have launched a new virtual medical clinic in mid-September, 2020. Students are able to book a virtual appointment with a Nurse Practitioner on a weekly basis.
2. Every program at the college has a designated Student Success Advisor (SSA). The SSA provides students with academic and personal supports and refers students to community resources as appropriate.
3. Assiniboine International has a full-time student advisor that is regularly available to meet with students. This advisor is able to answer questions regarding the campuses, programs, and has the RISIA designation to field questions related to study permits and IRCC.
4. Accommodation and accessibility services are available to support students with physical and sensory disabilities, learning disabilities, physical or mental health conditions, ensuring all students have equal access to a college education.
5. ACC's Learning Curve is a staffed department designed to assist students to develop good study skills and habits, effective test-taking strategies, time management, effective writing and more. Education assistants and peer tutors are available to help.

6. The Students' Association Council (SAC) is a group of 14 elected student representatives working to better support our students. SAC works together to bring services, events and supports to the entire Assiniboine student body, including international students
7. The I.M. Well Student Assistance Program (SAP) offers free, confidential counselling services to all students, including international as well as their immediate family members. This program was developed by ACC's Students' Association and offers support such as counselling, financial consulting, legal consulting and life coaching.
8. All students receive a presentation or complete a course module regarding the college's Respectful College and Sexual Violence policies (policies M10 and M14). The presentation materials specifically discuss protected characteristics under Manitoba human rights law, and relevant application of workplace health and safety legislation. This presentation has been updated recently to include information about the relevance of the policies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Should any member of the college community have concerns in this area, the college also employs a Respectful College Coordinator who can educate further and conduct investigations as needed.
9. The Assiniboine Community College Students' Association liaises with Samaritan House in Brandon to provide confidential food bank services to students.
10. The college has an emergency fund that can offer small bursaries or loans to students who have encountered an emergency situation.
11. Assiniboine students studying in Brandon have access to free bus transit with Brandon Transit, through the U-Pass program.
12. Taxi chits are available for individuals who find they need to leave campus but do not have a safe alternative to do so.

VACCINATIONS

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), and The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) recommend that COVID-19 vaccines be made available to all residents, including temporary residents, for whom the drug is approved and recommended for use. Based on these recommendations, the Government of Manitoba will administer the vaccine to non-Manitoba residents who have been isolating in Manitoba for at least 15 days, and who will remain in Manitoba for a further 15 days minimum, resulting in a total stay of no less than 30 days. Non-residents must meet the minimum age requirement for each drug as listed in the eligibility criteria found here <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html>. Temporary residents must provide proof of date of entry to Manitoba, as well as documentation to support the reason and anticipated length of their stay (ie: student visa, work visa, immigration documents, etc.).

When attending for their appointment, non-Manitoba residents (who live in Canada) must present valid photo ID and a Health Card issued by their home province / territory. Non-Canadians must present a valid Passport ID. All persons must complete the required consent form prior to their appointment, and bring it with them. Please note that certain areas of the form will not apply to non-residents, and should be left blank. Immunization staff will collect alternate information as required, during the appointment.

Students who have received their first dose in their home country are eligible to receive a second dose in Manitoba. If their first dose was a vaccine not approved in Canada, healthcare professionals will advise them as to their vaccination schedule in Manitoba. More information on vaccines can be found at #ProtectMB (protectmb.ca)

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTS

BLENDED AND IN-PERSON LEARNING

The majority of programs at Assiniboine in fall (September) 2021 may begin with blended delivery. This means your program may have a combination of in-person (on campus) classes and others that are remote (online). Our college expects to bring students more fully on campus as public health conditions allow, with a desire to have students fully on campus for their studies as we are able to do so safely. Students should expect and plan to be on campus in September for some or all of their program.

Further details to the college's approach to academic planning can be found as Appendix A.

Why Blended?

1. Campus Capacity – Some program curriculum lends itself well to online, distance, or alternative delivery methods. As such, taking advantage of this will help to limit students' time on campus, as well as the number of students on campuses and in spaces at any given time.
2. Learn by Doing – College programs require hands-on learning. When students graduate, they need to be prepared and confident to work in their chosen occupation.
3. Preparing for Industry – For the portions of each program that will be delivered in-person, environments will be designed to conform to personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety requirements in those industries, thus replicating the conditions for post-graduation employment.
4. Physical Distancing Practices – Assiniboine is fortunate to benefit from small class sizes and multiple campuses across communities. In addition to fewer total hours on campus, the college expects to make use of alternative times and days of delivery to accommodate physical and social distancing requirements for each program and the campus as a whole.

PROACTIVE STEPS

The college has developed procedures for responding to both staff and students who exhibit symptoms consistent with Covid-19. This protocol, which has been communicated to students and staff and is available on our website at assiniboine.net/covid-campus. If a student at Assiniboine exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, they should:

- Complete the self-screening tool from Shared Health and / or call Health Links-Info Santé toll free in Manitoba at 1-888-315-9257 (in Winnipeg at 204-788-8667).
- Students and Staff should alert their instructors and/or program chair about missing class (es), but they are not expected or required to disclose their personal health status to the college, either when they have symptoms or are safe to return to campus.
- If an individual is experiencing severe symptoms or difficulty breathing, they should call 911 immediately.

Based on test results, local public health officials will advise the individual what actions should be taken.

Additionally, Assiniboine has been actively working to mitigate the risk of transmission of Covid-19 across our campuses. Many measures have been put in place in the physical environment. This include but are not limited to:

1. Entrance protocol consistent with what provincial public health guidelines. This entrance protocol for all students, staff and visitors includes:
 - a. Self-screening steps
 - b. Required hand sanitizing
 - c. Stated reminders that all campuses are 'mask expected' environments
 - d. A digital visitor log for visitors to track their activity at a college campus through an online form
 - e. ACC's free SafetySmart smartphone app provides a Covid-19 self-screening tool and provides direct links to the most current information on the college's response to the pandemic on our website.
2. Furniture spacing in areas such as the cafeteria and library to facilitate the safe occupation of individuals who can properly physically distance.
3. Floor markers directing the flow of traffic in a single direction.
4. Plexiglass guards in areas where students and visitors may require assistance in-person from a college staff member (e.g., Registrar's Office, School Offices, and Reception Counters).

Much of this information is further detailed on the Covid-19 section of our website at assiniboine.net/covid-campus. A Covid-19 Safety Orientation video has been developed. New and returning students are required to watch the video as part of beginning or resuming their studies at ACC: <https://youtu.be/Sz0NcQ6TxUk>

Students also must read, agree to and sign the "Covid-19 Health and Safety Orientation Checklist" and send to their program manager. This checklist has been made available to all students by a variety of means. See https://drive.google.com/file/d/151e3tDLkZNWp9w4dmX_T0jS4wTQGEVUq/view

Over the past several months, college staff have developed comprehensive educational campaigns that are consistent with the key messages from Public Health on how to slow the spread of COVID-19. For example,

1. Proper handwashing techniques in washrooms
2. Proper hand sanitizing techniques at sanitizing stations
3. A 'Mask Up' educational campaign communicated through social media, posters, TV monitors on campus, staff and student intranets, and email messages to all students and staff
4. 'Slow the Spread' actions students should take including physical distancing, handwashing, and hand sanitizing are widely shared across campuses.
5. Communal food restriction reminders in areas where food may be consumed on campus.

ACCESSING COLLEGE CAMPUSES AND SITES SAFELY

In order to enter a college campus or site, any individual must meet the conditions of the posted screening questions, wear a mask and use the hand sanitizer located at designated doors. The self-screening steps are kept consistent with that communicated by Shared Health.

The college has also developed a web app that includes referral to a self-screening process.

Any person exhibiting designated symptoms must not enter the college or, if already at the college, must immediately leave and contact Health Links at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 for further advice. Students and staff must inform their instructor or supervisor that they will be missing class(es) and/or work, but they are not expected or required to disclose their personal health status to the college and not return to the college until they have recovered.

Everyone must enter and exit through the designated doors only.

Effort should be made to stay within the college, limiting exit and re-entry. Screening is required each time you leave and/or reenter the college.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Based on current provincial guidelines, physical distancing is maintained wherever possible at all times. Staff and students should take practical steps to ensure physical distancing is maintained to every extent possible.

The college uses signs and floor markers at service areas and in hallways to assist with physical distancing. Plexiglass barriers have been installed in high-volume service areas and will be installed in other areas shortly.

The college has examined each classroom space to establish capacity and will rearrange classroom furnishings to support physical distancing based on current provincial guidelines. Academic staff continue to provide safe work procedures (including PPE requirements) for specialized program areas to support physical distancing or to mitigate risks where physical distancing can't be maintained.

Start/stop times and breaks are staggered where possible to minimize possible congregating. Students and staff are encouraged to practice physical distancing while on breaks.

Each washroom setup has been examined to determine if modifications are required to facilitate physical distancing.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING

In addition to regular cleaning, the College has adopted additional cleaning and sanitization protocols to ensure that buildings are safe for students, staff and visitors. Building Service Workers are sanitizing frequently-touched surfaces more often and each room has been deep cleaned with all surfaces wiped and disinfected.

The college has procured two electrostatic disinfecting sprayers to disinfect large areas. Electrostatic disinfecting is a way of quickly and evenly coating surfaces with a disinfecting solution. No wiping is required with electrostatic spraying, and it is safe for all surfaces including electronic equipment. Assiniboine will purchase additional sprayers as needed.

The college will use the following additional measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Close water fountains that are not touchless or cannot be cleaned between uses while adding additional touchless water bottle fill stations.

Higher touch areas on campus such as vending machines and ATM's are part of the regular cleaning schedule and that disinfecting supplies are provided in close proximity to each machine.

SAFETY

Assiniboine campuses are mask expected environment. This means that outside of program spaces requiring PPE to support safe work procedures, students, staff and the public are expected to wear non-medical face masks.

The college will be making masks available to staff and have also signed an MOA with MGEU to support those staff who wish to purchase their own face coverings. In addition, where program safe work procedures call for specialized PPE for staff, the college will furnish this PPE.

Individual programs will identify what PPE will be required as part of their safe work procedures, and whether students will be expected to purchase face coverings or if the college will be providing this.

OUTBREAK PROTOCOL AND CASE MANAGEMENT

The Manitoba government has implemented a new pandemic response tool that uses the colours green, yellow, orange and red. At each level, public health officials have a range of restrictions that could be imposed on different sectors, including at post-secondary institutions.

The province will update the provincial response level in response to the spread of the virus and other public health indicators. Information on Manitoba's Pandemic Response System is available at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/system/index.html>

In the event of the confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with any Assiniboine campus or training facility, public health will lead the response and ensure appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. Contact tracing involves identifying the contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals who may have been exposed.

The college will assist public health in matters they determine to be required, such as:

- Providing records to identify cohorts/groups of students, staff, contractors (e.g., bookstore, food services) and visitors in the school for a specified timeframe;
- Sharing information from public health with students and staff on how to self-isolate or self-monitor and when they can return to the college;
- Recommend testing following established guidelines to students, staff, contractors, and visitors who may have been exposed to a positive case;
- Responding to a request to close campus facilities for a specific length of time.

Ian Grant, Assiniboine's Senior Advisor of Public Safety will be the college contact for public health 24/7 and can be reached by email at granti@Assiniboine.net, by cell phone 204.761.2273 or by work phone 204.725.8700 ext. 6623.

The college will clean and disinfect areas where possible exposure took place; these areas will not be used until they are determined to be safe by public health. A college closure would be a last resort and only to be done if directed by public health.

The college will assist and support students who are required to undertake a self-isolation period as a result of coming in contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19, or should the student themselves test positive.

COMMUNICATIONS

The college's Director of Public Affairs or a designate will work with public health officials and will assist college administrators with clear, consistent, accurate messaging as needed to communicate with staff, students, contractors, and media. This will be done at the direction of public health and to ensure privacy laws (PHIA) are upheld.

Public health will determine what is considered an outbreak. Assiniboine Community College respects that public health will have their own communications protocol that is followed and the college is ready and willing to work closely with the relevant public health officials as needed.

The college has developed a baseline communications plan to assist college officials in quickly responding in the case of a positive test result. Any communications activity will be informed by the advice and expectations of public health.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – ACADEMIC PLANNING

The college's academic activity has been planned in accordance with the principles of the Assiniboine Community College academic continuity plan and the college's return to campus plan. A key focus of academic planning was to emphasize preparedness to adapt to changing conditions as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, understanding that expansion and contraction of public health orders would be likely.

Program planning

Scheduled on-campus instructional activity has been scheduled as appropriate to the greatest degree possible while upholding all safety considerations. This involves a number of other strategies as appropriate:

- Blended delivery of courses/programs
- Prioritize in-person for essential shops and labs
- Related subjects in programs will be identified as low priority for on-campus residency, and will be offered remotely
- Focus on essential learning outcomes at the program level
- Achieve essential program outcomes within current program resources to the greatest extent possible.

Space planning

Space use planning included several strategies to ensure public health requirements were met:

- Determine new room capacities based on physical distancing requirements
- Reconfigure seating in classrooms to ensure physical distancing requirements
- Develop safe work procedures in educational activities and use of instructional facilities where physical distancing requirements cannot be met, such as clinical or shop situations.

Activity and student timetabling

Program and student timetables were developed and approved with the following goals in mind:

- Total number of persons gathering in one room meet public health requirements
- Attendance to the campus in four-hour blocks or less on any given day
- Minimal or no gaps in classes which would cause on-campus breaks
- Minimize intermingling of students within a program through grouping or cohorting students in small group sizes (bubbles)
- Minimize intermingling of students within the campus through minimizing number of classrooms used by any one group of students, and student movement between rooms
- Staggered class start and end times.

APPENDIX B – SUMMARIZED LIST OF LINKS TO RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

1. Information and Resources for Students Travelling Outside Manitoba to Start Classes in Winter 2021
<https://assiniboine.net/community/news-events/covid-19-updates/program-specific-information-winter-2021>
2. Information and Resources for Students Travelling Outside Manitoba to Start Classes in Fall 2020
<https://assiniboine.net/community/news-events/covid-19-updates/fall-2020>
3. COVID-19 Health & Safety Student Orientation Checklist
drive.google.com/file/d/151e3tDLkZNWp9w4dmX_T0jS4wTQGEVUq/view
4. Adherence of Members of the College Community to Public Health Orders
<http://assiniboine.net/policies>
5. General COVID-19 webpage for college community assiniboine.net/covid
6. Campus Access & Safety information assiniboine.net/campus-covid
7. Student Resources and FAQs assiniboine.net/covid-student-resources
8. International Student FAQs assiniboine.net/international-students
9. COVID-19 Campus Orientation Video <https://youtu.be/Sz0NcQ6TxUk>
10. Procedure for responding to students with COVID-19 Symptoms Available on the webpage
<https://assiniboine.net/community/news-events/covid-19-updates/campus-access-safety>
11. ArriveCAN App <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/arrivecan.html>
12. IRCC Information on Travel to Canada and Requirements
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/travel-restrictions-exemptions.html#quarantine>
13. Testing Requirements for Arriving Travelers
<https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/12/pre-departure-covid-19-testing-and-negative-results-to-be-required-for-all-air-travellers-coming-to-canada.html>
14. State of Emergency and Public Health Orders
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/orders/index.html#self-isolation>
15. Quarantine Hotel Information
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice/mandatory-hotel-stay-air-travellers.html>

APPENDIX C – SUMMARIZED LIST OF LINKS TO RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

1. Help Prevent the Spread – Educational Campaign
assiniboine.net/sites/default/files/documents/2020-08/help_prevent_the_spread_of_covid-19-july2020.pdf
2. Your Actions Matter – Educational Campaign
assiniboine.net/sites/default/files/documents/2020-08/your_actions_matter-poster-july2020.pdf
3. Face Masks on Campus - Educational Campaign
assiniboine.net/sites/default/files/documents/2020-08/maskcampaign-informationposter-2020_final.pdf
assiniboine.net/sites/default/files/documents/2020-08/maskcampaign-filterposter-2020_final_ncm.pdf
4. Food Safety on Campus
assiniboine.net/sites/default/files/documents/2020-08/communalfoodposter-2020.pdf
5. Communal Food Information assiniboine.net/sites/default/files/2020-08/CommunalFood-MicroKitchen-Poster-2020%20FINAL.pdf
6. WHO Stigma Guide: <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid19-stigma-guide.pdf>
7. Public Health Agency of Canada – Reducing Stigma: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-testing-reducing-stigma.html>
8. Dr. Tam on Reducing Stigma <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/addressing-stigma-toward-more-inclusive-health-system.html>
9. Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety – Preventing Stigma:
https://www.ccohs.ca/images/products/pandemiccovid19/pdf/preventing_stigma.pdf
10. Guard me Insurance information related to Covid-19
<https://www.guard.me/covid-19.php>

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