

Staff and Faculty Q&A

January 14, 2022

Question 1: I have students who live on a nearby Nations community who are extremely stressed about returning to class, many live with grandparents or have young children who are not vaccinated. Given that information they live in the most vulnerable population. I have been asked if I can take my course online because of their heightened anxiety, from what I heard so far you will not allow my most vulnerable group to continue learning online for safety reasons. Can someone answer how I should respond to my Mi'kmaq community members?

Answer: We indicated that instructors would not be required or forced to teach in a hybrid format, but if the instructor is interested in doing the hybrid form? of teaching an in person class and having the technology to allow the class to be simultaneously offered in an online format, that is possible.

Question 2: If we have obtained our booster should we communicate this to administration?

Answer: This is not required at this time.

Question 3: If people are contagious in the 48 hours before symptoms and testing is only available if you have symptoms and it takes time to get results, then it seems to me by the time you remove a student to a quarantine room likely their roommate is already infected, or they have spread covid across campus. I teach a studio art course in a room where it is impossible to keep a 2-meter distance. We don't have the system we had last year where a room was measured, and a maximum number of participants was determined.

Answer: Please refer to the link below for close contacts and testing protocol:

http://policy.nshealth.ca/Site_Published/covid19/document_render.aspx?documentRender.IdType=6&documentRender.GenericField=&documentRender.Id=90374

The return-to-school protocols that were put in place in August by Public Health have not changed. A two-meter distance is not required if a mask is on. We have provided as much space as possible within the classrooms.

Question 4: Are face shields permitted by faculty in the classroom?

Answer: Yes, during a lecture you can remove your mask and wear a face shield. We do have face shields available for faculty if they choose to use one. Please contact Karen Broussard at kbroussa@stfx.ca to obtain one. Please note, if you are in a building and leaving your office a mask is required.