

St. Stephen's College

Return to In-Person Learning in January 2022

29 October 2021

To: All St. Stephen's College Faculty, Staff, Students, and Volunteer Committee Members

Regarding: Return to In-Person Learning in January 2022

I am writing today with updates regarding the College's ongoing return to campus. As previously indicated, most St. Stephen's courses will return to in-person delivery beginning January 1, 2022. As COVID-19 cases continue to decline in Alberta, as vaccination rates continue to increase, and as vaccination passports are now in effect not just provincially but also nationally and internationally, the College is excited to return to in-person learning in the new year.

This communication outlines some of the measures we are taking not only to promote safe work and educational spaces on our campus, but also to indicate some of the ways that we continue to adapt our offerings in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes to the Campus Vaccine Policy:

As announced last week, beginning December 13, 2021, all staff, faculty, students, volunteers, and visitors to the St. Stephen's College campus are required to present proof that they are fully vaccinated prior to, or immediately upon, coming to the College campus. This means that, as of December 13, 2021, presentation of a negative COVID-19 test result will no longer be accepted for accessing the St. Stephen's College campus.

For students and faculty who will be participating in in-person courses beginning January 2022, you are required to present proof of vaccination before coming to the College campus.

The process for notifying the College of your vaccination status remains the same; all St. Stephen's College faculty, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors who come to campus are required to:

- Self-declare their vaccination status using a [confidential Vaccination Declaration questionnaire](#) before coming to campus and/or check-in at the Registrar's Office immediately upon arriving on campus, and
- Present proof of full vaccination either by email or in person to the St. Stephen's College Registrar's Office. Exemptions can be sought based on a medical, religious, or other protected ground recognized by the Alberta Human Rights Act.

All faculty, staff, students, and any other member of the St. Stephen's College community who access the University of Alberta campus (including libraries) are required to comply with the university's [COVID-19 Vaccination Directive](#), including registering for the university's [Campus Ready Pass](#).

Individuals who are not vaccinated will not be able to come to the St. Stephen's College campus. Students who are not vaccinated will be limited to courses that are offered online. Students are encouraged to consult with either myself or their Department Chair(s) to determine what, if any,

arrangements can be made for the student to continue with classes or other aspects of their program online or through other means that do not require attendance on the College campus.

Further details of our Vaccination Requirement Policy will be posted to our [SSC and COVID-19](#) webpage early next week.

Expanded Online Offerings for Winter (January–April) and Spring/Summer (May–August) 2022:

Given that the pandemic continues to have lasting effects, the College will continue to offer some courses via online, remote delivery for both the Winter 2022 (January–April) and Spring/Summer 2022 (May–August) semesters. (Future online offerings for the 2022–2023 year will be considered as part of our course planning process.). There are two primary reasons why the College will continue to offer some courses via online, remote delivery:

- Recognition that the effects of the pandemic continue to wear on us all, and that some level of continued online course delivery can offer greater flexibility for our students and/or faculty.
- Recognition that many post-secondary institutions view the 2021–2022 (and potentially the 2022–2023) academic year as transitional, and thus continue to offer some online offerings. The University of Alberta, for instance, scheduled approximately 80% of its Fall 2021 courses in-person (20% online), and approximately 93% of its Winter 2022 courses in person (7% online).

The St. Stephen’s [Course Schedule](#) will be updated as early as next week to indicate which of our current “In-Person” or “Blended” courses will be offered via online delivery. We currently are finalizing these details with our instructors, but we anticipate that approximately 20–30% of our courses that usually would be “In-Person” or “Blended” will be kept online (this will be in addition to the current online offerings). After careful discussion and reflection, the Faculty Council has decided not to offer courses via “hybrid” or “mixed-presence” delivery (that is, courses where some students are physically present in the classroom while other students are simultaneously present virtually via Zoom).

Enhanced Safety Measures on Campus:

As announced earlier this Fall, St. Stephen’s has implemented enhanced [health and safety measures on our campus](#). These include the vaccination requirement noted above, as well as measures related to masking, distancing, sign-in for the purposes of contact tracing, and compliance with ongoing public health requirements.

As always, if you have any questions or if you need any clarity regarding anything noted above, please reach out to me, the Registrar, or to your Department Chairs.

With thanks,
Fred Tappenden
Principal and Dean