To: All St. Stephen’s College Faculty, Staff, and Students

Regarding: Campus COVID Policy Changes and Confirmation of Return to Campus in May 2022

Dear St. Stephen’s Community,

As many of you know, earlier this month the Government of Alberta announced its plan to ease COVID-19 restrictions across the province. I am writing today to (a) confirm that over the next few months, the College will return to in-person course delivery (with the majority of courses returning in-person in May 2022), and (b) to let you know of upcoming changes to our campus COVID policies (effective Monday, February 28, 2022).

The changes listed below reflect the broader shifts we see taking place in our society at this time, shifts that are moving away from public health mandates toward public health guidance/recommendations. As noted early last week in a Statement from the Canadian Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health, we are entering a “transition time,” one that is not yet an endemic, but which we hope is on the way toward just such a phase. Navigating these new waters will present their own sets of challenges, and as always, the College will remain vigilant and nimble. In the future, we will respond quickly and as needed to put in place any new or reinstated restrictions as required.

Changes taking effect on Monday, February 28, 2022:

- **Course Delivery:** As previously announced, St. Stephen’s College courses will return to in-person delivery starting May 1, 2022. In the more immediate future, the College’s UAAlberta and CPE courses will return to in-person instruction starting February 28, 2022.

- **Campus Hours:** Starting February 28, the College building will be open to the St. Stephen’s community and broader public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (Mondays and Fridays will continue as remote workdays). We anticipate and expect that the College will return to a 5-day on-campus working schedule on May 1, 2022.

- **Stay Home if Unwell:** Before every visit to campus, individuals are asked to complete the AHS Personal Health Check and to comply with any relevant public health requirements. If an individual is feeling unwell, they are asked to please stay home to take care of themselves and others.

- **Improved Ventilation:** In anticipation of welcoming our community back to campus, the College has installed in each of our classrooms and common spaces air purification units that utilize medical grade HEPA filters. These units are custom-sized to our spaces to ensure hourly air exchanges that comply with COVID-19 health recommendations.
• **Masking, Distancing, Vaccination, and Sign-In Policies:** In a letter sent last week to post-secondary institutions, the Minister of Advanced Education outlined his expectation that Alberta’s post-secondary institutions will lift several restrictions in order to align with the government’s reopening plans. In response to this letter, St. Stephen’s will take the following steps:
  
  o (See additional update below) In compliance with City of Edmonton bylaws and in alignment with the University of Alberta, the requirement to wear masks while on campus will continue until further notice. It is expected that this will be in place until April 30, at which time we will reassess this requirement.
  
  o In alignment with the University of Alberta, physical distancing will no longer be required on the St. Stephen’s College campus beginning February 28. Moving forward, physical distancing is strongly recommended for all who come to campus.
  
  o The St. Stephen’s College vaccination requirement will remain in place, though effective February 28 the College will indefinitely suspend enforcement of this policy. This means that students, staff, faculty, and visitors to campus will not be required to provide proof of vaccination before coming to campus. Rather than suspending this policy outright, by keeping this policy in place the College is better able to respond as needed to future pandemic developments (including re-enforcing this policy if needed). Over the coming months we will continue to review and evaluate the need for our vaccination policy relative to the everchanging realities of the pandemic.
  
  o Visitors to campus will no longer be required to sign-in when they come to campus.

• **College Meetings:** Until further notice, all College meetings (board, senate, program committees, etc.) will continue online.

• **Remote UAlberta Library Access:** The University of Alberta Library will reopen to the public on February 28, 2022. Unfortunately, this means that the temporary remote library access given to St. Stephen’s faculty and students will end at that time. All of us at St. Stephen’s are grateful to the University for extending this temporary service and for accommodating our students and faculty through this most recent and difficult stretch of the pandemic.

As noted at the outset of this letter, we find ourselves in a transition period. Navigating these new waters presents a new set of challenges. The College is committed, as always, to remaining vigilant and nimble, and we will respond quickly and as needed to put in place any new or reinstated restrictions as may be required by the everchanging realities of the pandemic.

Please reach out to me with any comments, questions, concerns, or the like. As we transition into this next phase, I know there will be a mix of experiences and emotions, including concern, uncertainty, expressions of relief, while also elements of fear. My inbox, my virtual Zoom room, and soon my office door will be open to all who wish to connect, and I am happy to extend an open invitation to meet with you as needed.

With thanks,
Fred Tappenden
Principal and Dean
Additional Update regarding Masking
March 15, 2022

To the Faculty, Staff, Students, and Community of St. Stephen’s College

As many of you know, on March 8 the City of Edmonton voted to end the masking bylaw within the city limits. A couple of days later, the University announced that masks will no longer be required on the University’s campus starting Wednesday, March 16.

After reviewing these announcements, and reflecting on our context at St. Stephen’s, the College has decided that, effective March 16, masks will be “encouraged and strongly recommended” but no longer required on the SSC campus. The use of masks is strongly recommended in all spaces on the SSC campus, especially those that are high-capacity and high-traffic areas, and in areas where individuals are in close proximity to one another.

As we continue to transition away from campus mandates toward campus guidelines/recommendations, it is paramount that all SSC students, staff, faculty, and visitors respect the choices of others in our community regarding masking, distancing, and the like. As we make this transition together, each of us will have differing levels of comfort and ease, and our collective commitment to being in respectful care of one another is as vital now as it was early in the pandemic.

Warm regards,
Fred Tappenden,
Principal and Dean