



St. Stephen's College

Memo: SSC Covid Update and Remote Library Access Ended

To: All St. Stephen's College Students and Faculty

Regarding: SSC Covid Update and Library Remote Access Ended

Dear Students and Faculty,

Last week the [Alberta Government announced its plan to re-open the province over the coming weeks](#). The plan is ambitious and optimistic, and it relies heavily on Alberta's vaccine rollout as well as our collective capacity to meet ongoing hospitalization targets. The first step of this plan began earlier this week (June 1), with the possibility that public health restrictions will be significantly reduced as early as July 1.

Our leadership team at St. Stephen's is currently reviewing the Province's Reopening Plan and assessing its impact on the College. I will be in touch over the coming weeks with more details as we align our own "return to campus" with the provincial plan. For now, I can confirm that all remaining Spring and Summer courses (June–August) will continue via online, remote delivery. This allows for continuity and consistency among our students and faculty. In particular, students who live outside of Edmonton require sufficient time to plan their travel, and our faculty also require sufficient time to prepare their courses for different delivery methods. As outlined in our COVID-19 announcement on 10 March 2021, our intention is to give students and instructors at least two to three months of notice before pivoting courses back to in-person delivery.

In the COVID-19 announcement sent on 10 March 2021, students and faculty were asked to expect and plan that Fall 2021 courses will continue online, with the possibility that a limited number of courses may pivot back to in person delivery. Over the coming weeks we will reevaluate this position in light of the Province's Reopening Plan, with the purpose of determining when our pivot back to in-person learning will be possible. Key factors that we are considering include:

- (1) How quickly will the Provincial Reopening Plan unfold, and how quickly will second doses of the vaccine be available to the general public?
- (2) How quickly are other provinces opening up, recognizing that our student body is spread across nine of Canada's 13 provinces and territories.
- (3) How quickly will international borders open up, recognizing that some in our student body reside outside of Canada.

As I have expressed before, St. Stephen's is committed to returning to in-person course delivery as soon as it is safe to do so, and in a manner that minimizes risk to our community. We are at a point in the pandemic where it feels that our return to campus is closer than ever. While there certainly is more clarity today about what a return to campus might look like, there still are unknown factors that need to be considered with care. All of us at St. Stephen's look forward with much excitement to the prospect of gathering together on campus for courses, college events, meetings, and any other social gathering. We are close, and we will be there soon.

In the meantime, for those who are able to do so, I encourage all in the St. Stephen's community to book their appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. The vaccine has proven very effective at reducing the risk of infection, and its widespread distribution hastens our return to normalcy.

Library Access:

The University of Alberta Library reopened its Curbside Pick-Up services this past week (effective June 1, 2021). Unfortunately, this means that the temporary remote library access given to St. Stephen's faculty and students has now ended. 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 some of the most difficult weeks of the pandemic.

Effective today, students can again make appointments to come to campus for the purposes of conducting research. Appointments must be made with Shelley Westermann, and all visits to campus must follow the [Protocol for Safe On-Campus Work During COVID-19](#).

By way of reminder, library access for St. Stephen's students and faculty is outlined on the [Library Services](#) page of the St. Stephen's website. These services are summarized below and are available with a few alterations due to COVID-19:

- 1) Online access to the EBSCO database (via the College's EBSCO account) is available for all St. Stephen's faculty and students (available both on-campus and off-campus). To access this, please see the [Library Services](#) page of the St. Stephen's website.
- 2) Online access to the University of Alberta e-resources is available only while on the St. Stephen's College campus. As noted above, students can make appointments to come to campus to use the e-resources. Please reach out to Shelley Westermann at the College to book an appointment.
- 3) Access to the print holdings of the University of Alberta collection. Though all branches of the University Library remain closed at this time, the print stacks can be accessed in the following ways:
 - a. Curbside Pick-Up: The Library has established a "Curbside Pick-Up" service for all library users. Please see the St. Stephen's [Library Services](#) page for details of how to access this service.
 - b. Distance Delivery: As always, for those students who live outside of the Greater Edmonton Area, books and other documents can be delivered to your home using the Library's Distance Delivery service. Please see the Library's [Distance Delivery](#) page for details of how to access this service.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the College if you need any clarity about any of the matters addressed above.

With thanks,
Fred Tappenden,
Principal and Dean,
St. Stephen's College