



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

Campus Reopening Framework

MODIFIED JUNE 19, 2020

Background

This Campus Reopening Framework has been developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 is a new viral illness, caused by a Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

It is anticipated that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to be a risk until such time as a vaccine is developed, likely 18-24 months. To date the Antigonish Region has not been severely impacted by the virus, likely a reflection of our rural lifestyle and the Public Health guidelines that were put in place at the early stages. The reopening of our campus will require an extensive collaborative effort from students, faculty, staff and community members to share in the responsibility of promoting a safe living environment for all.

This Reopening Framework, and supporting operational plans, provides details on the approach that is being taken to provide a safe campus environment for students, faculty, and staff allowing for resumption of campus activities that reflect the 'new normal' of living with this virus.

The Reopening Framework has been developed in consultation with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education and Public Health officials. The Framework and operational plans will be modified as Public Health guidance, scientific knowledge, and clinical best practices continue to evolve.

The following operational plans will form part of the Campus Reopening Framework:

- Employee Return to Campus Work Plan
- Resumption of on-campus Research and Fieldwork Plan
- Academic Program Delivery Plan
- Facilities Management Plan (Access, Flow, Cleaning, & Disinfection)
- Residence Reopening Plan
- Student Life Plan
- Communications Plan

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles will inform our approach to reopening our campus:

1. We will protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and people in our surrounding community.
2. We will enable students to make meaningful progress towards their educational goals.
3. We will uphold our commitment to academic quality and integrity.
4. We will enable faculty members to advance their research programs.
5. We recognize and will continue to demonstrate that the University is an essential part of the economic recovery of our region and the Province.

Guidance for Operational Plan Development

The following guidance, developed for post-secondary institutions (adapted from Province of Alberta Guidance for Post-Secondary Institutions — <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-guidance-post-second-ary-institutions.pdf>) with input from Public Health and Labour and Advanced Education will be used in the development of operational plans.

General Safety

Post-secondary institutions may resume in-person instruction or blended in-person/online instruction, so long as:

- A physical distance of two metres is maintained at all times between all individuals who are physically present.
- The maximum number of people in a room or educational space at one time, with appropriate physical distancing, is in accordance with evolving Public Health Guidelines.
- If two or more individuals are required to come within two metres of one another for the purpose of instruction, practice, or undertaking examinations, additional protections must be instituted such as engineering controls (barriers or partitions), administrative controls (adapting the activity to minimize or eliminate close contact), or use of PPE by all individuals in close contact.

Before re-opening to in-person attendance, post-secondary institutions should establish their own COVID-19 plans, including:

- Adaptations to educational programming and spaces to meet maximum attendance and physical distancing requirements.
- A schedule for enhanced cleaning and disinfection of high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces.
- Plans to identify and manage illness in educational, residential, food service, and recreational settings on campus.
- Plans for staff and students isolating or quarantining on campus (if applicable).
- Staff, students, visitors, and volunteers who access the post-secondary institution for work, education, recreation, or residence should screen for symptoms every day that they enter the post-secondary institution using http://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/ph_newsigs-new-posters_-_qathesigns_may25.pdf
- Any individual experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition is required by law to follow Nova Scotia's isolation requirements.
- Post-secondary institutions should develop an online orientation for students and faculty returning to campuses that addresses expectations and shared responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- To support accurate contact tracing, staff, students, visitors, and volunteers should be encouraged to follow NS Contact Tracing Guidelines found at http://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/ph_newsigs-new-posters_-_qathesigns_may25.pdf.
- Post-secondary institutions must keep contact information for all staff and students, and keep daily attendance lists for in-person classes.

Resuming in- person Learning

Post-secondary institutions should institute controls to ensure physical distancing between all attendees in areas in and outside of the classroom, including hallways, washrooms, and common areas. This could include:

- Staggering start and end-times for classes, if possible, to avoid crowded hallways.
 - Posting signs, using barriers, and marking floors.
 - Removing and restaging seating in public areas to prevent gathering.
 - Limiting bathroom occupancy.

- Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas in, and outside, classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer should be provided at classroom entrances and exits, and proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be promoted.
- Additional distancing or barriers may be necessary depending on how lecturers and instructors interact with students.
 - For example, Human Kinetics or music instruction may require additional hazard protections.

Practical Learning Experiences

- Practical learning experiences may resume as long as the risk of infection can be mitigated for all participants.
- The maximum number of people in a practical learning space at one time, with appropriate physical distancing between all individuals, will adhere to Public Health standards applicable at the time.
 - If the practical learning space is in a workplace, the participant is expected to follow health rules set out by the workplace.
- If two or more individuals are required to come within two metres of one another for the purpose of instruction, practice, or undertaking examinations, additional protections must be instituted such as engineering controls (barriers or partitions) or use of PPE by all individuals in close contact.
 - The time that individuals are in close contact should be kept to a minimum.
- Students who are required to participate in aerosol-generating procedures or work with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients as part of their learning experience (e.g. medical residents or nursing students) must have the option to defer the practical learning experience. Institutions should offer this choice without penalty.
 - If the student chooses to participate in these activities, appropriate controls and/or PPE should be provided where the services are undertaken, along with instructions for how to use them.
- Use of shared items or equipment should be avoided. Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use and users should perform hand hygiene before and after each use.

Responding to Illness

- All post-secondary institutions are required to have detailed plans for a rapid response to illness and outbreaks on campus and in associated student residences.
- Staff, students, and others should be reminded that anyone who starts to experience symptoms associated with COVID-19 while onsite or staying in residence must immediately isolate at home or in residence.
 - Symptomatic individuals should be directed to contact 811 for screening and testing, and notify the post-secondary institution or residence.
- If the post-secondary institution learns that two or more staff or students have become symptomatic and have a known location link (e.g. inhabit the same residence or attend the same class), the institution is expected to notify NS Public Health (811).

Residences and Dorms

- Once Canada lifts travel restrictions, and non-essential international travel resumes, residences may wish to re-open two weeks before in-person classes start to allow international students to complete their quarantine period. Alternatively, post secondary institutions with support from the Province may direct students to be tested followed by a period of self isolation until the student is cleared by Public Health.
- Residences must have rooms dedicated for symptomatic residents and residents with COVID-19 and their close contacts to isolate themselves. Procedures to support isolating residents, including delivery of meals, laundry, and washroom use must also be prepared.
- Steps must be taken to reduce the use of shared spaces such as bathrooms and kitchens.
- The number of occupants in a residence should be limited and residence rooms should not be shared, unless by members of the same household.
- Residences are expected to adopt an enhanced cleaning and disinfecting schedule for all shared spaces and high-touch surfaces.
- Residences are expected to keep up-to-date contact information for all residents and should keep records of visitors, repair persons, and delivery personnel who enter the residences.
 - Residences should consider “no-visitor” or “essential visitors only” policies.

Food Services

- Post-secondary institutions with dining halls/food services must have plans in place to mitigate the risk of infection spread in these facilities before they can re-open. Suggestions include:
 - Multiple, staggered meal services to reduce the number of people in the dining area at one time.
 - Encouraging diners to take their meals to other areas for consumption.
 - Posting signs to encourage physical distancing, manage the flow of people, and divert people from high-traffic areas.
 - Spacing out seating and line-ups.
- Food service providers and licensed drinking establishments on campus must adhere to Public Health Guidelines <https://novascotia.ca/reopening-nova-scotia/> when relaunching.
- Self-serve buffets and food stations are not allowed. Food must be served by staff to diners in pre-packaged or individual portions.
- Where physical distancing cannot be maintained (e.g. between staff who serve food, and diners) additional protections must be instituted such as engineering controls (barriers or partitions) or use of PPE by servers.

Sports and Recreation

- Sports practices and outdoor activities may proceed in accordance with sector specific guidance. Inter-university sport events and competitions will be made by institutions referencing the recommendations tabled by USport and the AUS.
- Gyms, pools, recreation centres, theatres and arenas may reopen when they have operational plans that meet Public Health Guidelines.
- Large art and culture events, concerts, and major sporting events are not permitted.

Campus Life

- Social gatherings that occur in the buildings or grounds of the post-secondary institution must adhere to the Public Health Guidelines for maximum gatherings and social distancing.

International Students

- Once Canada lifts travel restrictions and non-essential international travel resumes, staff and students returning from international travel are permitted to conduct their 14-day quarantine in the residence, provided that isolation requirements and public health orders are followed. Post secondary institutions with support from the Province may direct students to be tested followed by a period of self isolation until the student is cleared by Public Health.