

Quest University Communicable Disease Plan

INTRODUCTION

Quest's top priorities remain ensuring a high-quality academic and student experience and safeguarding the health and wellness of our community members. Following the BC Restart plan and the Post-Secondary Return-to-Campus Guidelines, and following WorkSafeBC requirements, this Communicable Disease Plan outlines the prevention measures that members of our community must follow as we transition back to on-campus teaching, learning, working, and living.

This Communicable Disease Plan applies to staff, faculty and students engaged in any university activity. This Communicable Disease Plan is effective as of September 7, 2021 and replaces all pre-existing COVID-19 protocols. This Communicable Disease Plan and all ongoing prevention measures apply campus wide.

TRANSITION PERIOD

During the transitional months of July and August the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafeBC are recommending we still maintain some existing safety measures as we gradually and safely ease restrictions in anticipation of the full return to campus activities in the fall. Quest University plans to continue to stay at Operational Level 2 of safety measures, moving to Operational Level 3 on August 9th. We anticipate to shift to Operational 4 on August 26th as our first-year students move onto campus.

To assist staff and faculty with this transition process, ongoing communication from the COVID-19 Task Force will advise on our step by step transition from the COVID-19 Operational Level 2 safety measures; which includes mask wearing in common spaces, social distancing, recorded health checks when on campus, working from home when possible etc., to COVID-19 Operational Level 3 safety measures; which include optional mask wearing, staff working on campus, and eventually transitioning on September 7th to this Communicable Disease Plan.

Those travelling to campus from outside of Canada, will still need to follow federal travel restrictions, Canadian entry requirements, as well as university requirements for international student travel safety plans. Please visit <https://travel.gc.ca> for more detail. Students coming from outside of Canada may get more details on our website at <https://questu.ca/covid19/#resources> under the International Student heading or students can speak with Barbara Fernandes by emailing Barbara.fernandes@questu.ca

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

Communicable disease prevention focuses on basic risk reduction principles to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The key components of communicable disease prevention include both ongoing measures to maintain at all times and

additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health during periods of elevated risk. The COVID-19 Task Force and the Joint Health and Safety Committee will regularly monitor and review communicable disease information from public health authorities, and update the campus community of any changes affecting university activities, including updating the Communicable Disease Plan as required.

ONGOING PREVENTION MEASURES - maintained at all times

Promoting hand-washing and hygiene practices:

- Washing your hands regularly, or using hand sanitizers if a washroom or sink is not available, is one of the most simple and effective ways to minimize the spread of communicable diseases.
- Covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough can help to reduce the spread of germs.
- All washroom facilities on campus will be open and available for students, staff and faculty, and the public to allow for regular handwashing. Quest University will also continue to supply hand sanitizer stations at all main entrances to buildings, and additional locations in buildings with higher occupancy levels, to promote hand hygiene.
- For outdoor events or activities, individuals should ensure that hand sanitizer is supplied if washing facilities are not available (e.g. outdoor events, on field trips, in vehicles, etc.).
- Quest university has posted signage throughout campus to remind everyone of these important practices.

Routine cleaning

- Quest university is committed to maintaining a clean environment through routine cleaning protocols, and implementing enhanced cleaning protocols if directed by public health during any periods of elevated risk.
- General campus cleaning by Facilities and Operations, will return to pre-pandemic practices and schedules as recommended by the Provincial Health Office and Post-Secondary Return to Campus Guidelines.
- General office areas are no longer required to disinfect surfaces or shared equipment (e.g. photocopiers, computers, desks, supplies, etc.) as part of their usual housekeeping practices.
- Areas which may have specialized cleaning practices due to their activities or regulatory requirements (e.g. laboratories, health clinics, food service areas, etc.) should continue to follow those practices, in addition to any other requirements that may still be in place from the Provincial Health Office.

Building Ventilation

- Following the direction of WorkSafeBC and the Provincial Health Office, Quest will ensure that building heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems are operating and maintained in accordance with WorkSafeBC requirements.
- Facilities and Operations has been assessing building heating, ventilation and air conditioning system to ensure those systems continue to meet WorkSafeBC requirements.
- As the weather permits, windows may be opened to also improve air circulation and where it does not interfere with the proper functioning of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

Supporting student, staff and faculty to stay at home when sick:

- All employees and students must continue to do a daily health self-assessment.
- If you are ill or have symptoms of a communicable disease (e.g. fever and/or chills, recent onset of coughing, diarrhea):
 - please stay home
 - notify your supervisor or tutor of your absence
 - consult the COVID-19 self-assessment tool to see if you should get tested, and contact 811 if you require medical advice
- Tutors should follow established protocols to support student absence due to illness, and contact the Academic Dean if advice is required. (The academic concession policy can be found on the portal at <https://portal.questu.ca/acad/registrar/default.aspx>).
- Employees who are able to work at home while they are recovering from their illness/symptoms are advised to speak with their supervisor and with HR to discuss remote working options.

Supporting Vaccinations

- Getting vaccinated is the most important tool supporting the BC Restart Plan.
- Quest university encourages all student, staff and faculty who is eligible and able, to consider vaccination to protect yourself and others.
- Quest University employees are entitled to up to three hours of paid leave to be vaccinated against COVID- 19, if required.

Note: the COVID-19 vaccine is not mandatory in order to study, work, or live on campus.

RESPONDING TO ELEVATED RISK - implemented as advised

The level of risk of certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19, may elevate from time to time or on a seasonal basis. This may occur at a local or regional level.

- In addition to maintaining the ongoing prevention measures, the COVID-19 Task Force and the Joint Health and Safety Committee, will monitor public health information and be responsive to any further directives from the local medical health officer or provincial health officer which could include, for example, implementing enhanced cleaning measures, distancing requirements or masking guidelines.
- Any changes to prevention measures during periods of elevated risk will be communicated to our campus community.

COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING

- This Communicable Disease Plan will be available on the university website and shared broadly with the Quest University community.
- Supervisors should ensure that everyone on their teams have reviewed the Communicable Disease Plan and understand and follow the measures in place.
- The prevention measures will be posted through campus signage and other communication tools.
- The regular review and evaluation of the Communicable Disease Plan will involve the COVID-19 task force as well as the Joint Health and Safety Committee.
- Individuals may contact their supervisor, the Joint Health and Safety Committee or HR for assistance with a safety concern or question.