



Coronavirus COVID 19 Update #3

Message Sent on Behalf of Lily Fraser, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)

I am writing to update the campus community on the COVID-19 situation and our response and contingency work to date. The situation is evolving and there are a number of issues specific to the university we are addressing.

As a reminder, there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 in New Brunswick, a woman living in the south-east who recently travelled from France. The national and provincial health authorities continue to assess the public health risk in Canada and New Brunswick as low. Travelers returning to Canada continue to be provided with direction regarding self-monitoring for symptoms.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health is the lead in New Brunswick on COVID-19 and we are taking direction from that office and the Public Health website. Late this afternoon, she recommended that any non-essential mass gathering (150 or more people) be cancelled or postponed until we are able to better determine the risk to our population. Given that advice, we closed the CCAA Men's Volleyball Champions games to spectators. The games will continue with athletes, coaches and game staff, however no spectators will be permitted to attend. As well, the organizers of STUISA's Multi-Cultural Event made the decision to cancel the event.

She also continues to recommend that educational institutions take the same precautions recommended for the cold and influenza season. *If you are sick with a cold or flu, we would advise that you stay home to avoid spreading any illness to others. If you are a student missing significant class time, please contact — registrarsoffice@stu.ca.*

COVID-19 Working Group / Actions on Campus

Our STU COVID-19 Working Group has been meeting regularly and, to best co-ordinate contingency planning and share best practices, we are part of UNB's Campus Health Steering Committee.

- We have been monitoring the situation closely at universities across the country. We are well into contingency planning with regards to upcoming STU events, activities and travel, as well as planning for different potential developments.
- For groups on campus with events underway or immediately upcoming, we will be working with them directly to provide best advice based on information from Public Health on how to proceed.
- We have been in direct contact with our small number of students on exchange providing them advice and assistance with regards to their decision-making.
- On campus, Aramark cleaning staff have replaced the use of multi-surface cleaning chemicals with disinfectant and touch surfaces are the focus for disinfecting. As well, two Aramark staff have been assigned to disinfecting routines in addition to regular shift cleaning.

Work-Related Travel for Faculty and Staff

We are suspending all work-related travel to destinations outside New Brunswick, ie., national and international destinations. This is a preventative measure to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. Employees can make arrangements to participate in out-of-country/province meetings or conferences by using teleconferencing tools. (We will communicate more fully on this issue shortly.)

Protecting Yourself and Protecting Others

Following the best practice from Public Health, I would urge you to continue to take important everyday precautions:

- Hand washing: Wash hands often with soap/warm water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitizer (minimum 70% alcohol content), especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Cough/sneeze etiquette: Cough and sneeze into arm or tissue.
- Self isolate when sick: Students, faculty and staff should self-monitor for symptoms if recently travelled internationally and contact TeleCare 811 if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Plan to stay home when sick.
- Keep clean: Keep hands away from face and mouth.
- Stay healthy: Stay healthy by eating healthy foods, keeping physically active, getting enough sleep.

ASK@STU.CA

We recognize that there are many other questions in this evolving situation so we have set up a dedicated e-mail address for students — ask@stu.ca. We will do our best to answer any questions that you may have based on the information available to us.

We will soon be posting a special webpage as a single source for information from STU and with links for trusted sources of information. If you want more detail from a trusted source, I am also attaching a Public Health Advice Notice from the Chief Medical Officer specific to the post-secondary education sector. The Chief Medical Officer's website is at www.gnb.ca/coronavirus.

We will continue to update you as circumstances warrant and as we reach decision points.

Lily Fraser,
Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
March 12, 2020