Health and Safety Protocols: Face-to-Face Course Delivery

As noted in the Fall Planning Update, following extensive consultation, the University has refined its definition of the announced hybrid approach and what it means for fall 2020. We must prepare for the majority of our classes to be delivered online or in an alternative format.

However, if face-to-face teaching is required for some courses, the University has planned carefully for the safe resumption of face-to-face teaching in the fall 2020 semester. Public health and government directives have guided University preparations for the safe use of classroom facilities.

Most centrally booked classrooms have a capacity of fewer than 50 students. Only three campus rooms can accommodate more than 50 students at a time. The following measures will be implemented to protect the health and safety of students and faculty participating in face-to-face courses:

1. Reduced classroom capacities and foot-traffic flows will be implemented to account for a minimum of two metres between people at all times.
2. Public health compliant seating charts have been created. Seats will be designated for use and students will be encouraged to use the same seat for the duration of the semester.
3. Signage will be posted to remind students and faculty of public health etiquette and to direct traffic flows.
4. Students will be queued upon entry and exit. Students will enter and exit systematically while following physical distancing protocols inside and outside the classroom. During the first four weeks staff monitors will be present to help direct students in and out of classrooms.
5. Where possible, each class will have a designated entrance and exit. Students entering will not cross paths with students exiting the classroom. If a classroom has one doorway, no new student or faculty will enter until the classroom is empty.
6. Classrooms that share hallways and crush spaces will have staggered class schedules to ensure physical distancing measures are maintained.
7. Students and faculty will be required to disinfect their individual spaces upon entry and exit. Appropriate supplies will be available.
8. Classes will be scheduled at least 30 minutes apart to account for cleaning time and proper exiting.
9. Students and faculty will be required to wear personal protective equipment during class time. Cloth masks and face shields are appropriate.
10. A COVID-19 testing centre is expected to be present on campus to help the University monitor and respond to potential positive cases of COVID-19.
11. Hand sanitizing stations will be installed and accessible to each classroom.
12. Physical resources will deep clean classrooms at the end of each day.
13. Where necessary, faculty will be provided with their own lapel microphone.

The University is working on public health messaging aimed at helping make the new campus health and safety protocols part of an everyday routine. More information about recovery planning and health and safety compliance in classrooms will be available soon.