



August 28, 2020

Dear Gryphons,

Welcome (or welcome back) to Guelph. The start of a new school year is an exciting time but, during this global pandemic, also one that comes with questions and concerns. As you return to residence or to your off-campus accommodations, I wanted to share some recommendations that will help reduce the risk of COVID-19 for you, your classmates and those around you:

- **Wear a face covering** that covers your mouth and nose
- **Practice good hand hygiene** by using alcohol-based hand sanitizer and washing your hands
- **Practice physical distancing** of at least 6 feet
- **Keep your groups small** by limiting your indoor and outdoor gatherings to less than ten people
- **Don't share** drinks, meals, vapes or other things that could transmit COVID-19
- **Download the COVID Alert mobile app** which will alert you to any possible exposure

Keeping campus and our community safe this fall will take all of us working together. Until we have a vaccine or a treatment for COVID-19, we must manage the virus until we beat it. Following the recommendations I've laid out will help keep cases low in our community and keep all of us safe.

I wish you all the best in your studies this year.

Sincerely,

Dr. N. J. Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC C.Dir.
Medical Officer of Health and CEO