August 23, 2022

Welcome back to campus, everyone! We know that you are both excited to return to campus and that excitement is likely tempered with anxiety that, while we may want to be “done with covid; covid’s not done with us.” A few points to consider as we return to 100 percent in-person activities.

- **Masks:** Yes, you can still wear masks if you choose. Given the rise in infectious variants, you may wish to. We also continue to track what’s being done re: HVAC and filtration.

- **You may wish to write your syllabi to reflect the “not quite done with covid” reality.** Keep in mind that there is no easy way for students to get doctors’ notes as was done pre-covid. If students report that they tested positive or were exposed to covid then you will likely need to take it as a given. Like me, you will want them to stay away from campus and take care of themselves!

- **It is inevitable that students will miss class due to covid.** You may wish to accommodate students who are absent. You may wish to record your lectures but you are still not required to do recordings. You may wish to account for impacts that absences will have on students’ ability to participate (if participation or attendance are mandatory) or on exams. There is no one-size-fits-all accommodation strategy. We trust that you'll do the best you can.

- **Take care of yourself.** There are still people catching covid and also getting long covid. If you are exposed or have caught it or think you have it then stay home.

Within MAUT Council and Exec, we’re monitoring what’s beneficially changed as a result of what we've needed to do to adjust to covid. We’re also looking at issues that should be returned to pre-covid times. To that latter point, we include the extra burdens placed on us as a consequence of significant staff shortages across campus and the need to monitor the rise in the number of versions of final exams for Winter terms.

We care deeply about our students and want to encourage the best learning environment but we also need to be supported institutionally so we can carry out our teaching, research, supervision and service to the best of our ability. All of us to want to feel valued at McGill. Let’s work together to make that happen.

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