



Ingram School of Nursing    École des sciences infirmières Ingram

Re: Weekly COVID-19 related update from the Director

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Students,

This is the seventh weekly update related to your studies at the Ingram School of Nursing (ISoN) in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. **Please note that this will be the last update before the holidays, and messages will resume in January.** These weekly updates can also be found on our website, organized by date [here](#).

I have also been holding weekly Town Halls, where I receive your questions directly and via your student leaders. If you were unable to attend last week's Town Hall, you may access the recording of it [here](#) with the passcode: **Q8c.5^\$\***.

As planned, this week's Town Hall will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. EST via [Zoom](#). **Please note that the December 16<sup>th</sup> Town Hall will be the last one before the holiday period.** Town Halls will continue through the winter semester, and your student leaders will reach out to you to determine a new day and time, at which point the confirmed Winter 2021 Town Hall schedule with Zoom link will be communicated to all students as of January 2021.

Various meetings and the latest updates from key stakeholders inform this week's message. I will cover six issues this week: (1) Winter clinical requirements; (2) employer deployment requests and impact on studies: BNI, Master's Nurse-Entry and NP students (3) COVID-19 vaccinations for students; (4) HSEL 309 course start date and update on NUR1 and NUR2 add/drop dates; (5) resources to support students over the holidays; and (6) key recommendations for staying healthy during the holidays and beginning winter clinical placements

### *I. WINTER CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS*

The clinical requirements of mask fitting of N95 masks and "SafeTALK" continue to be waived for the Winter 2021 semester. Students may receive an automated notice that their certifications for these two clinical requirements will soon expire; please disregard these messages. All ISoN students in clinical programs will be notified once these two requirements become mandatory again.

## *II. EMPLOYER DEPLOYMENT REQUESTS AND IMPACT ON STUDIES: BNI, MASTER'S NURSE-ENTRY, AND NP STUDENTS*

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, certain clinical areas are requesting that their employees be deployed to other regions (e.g., Saguenay Lac St-Jean) first on a volunteer basis, then to be assigned via reverse-seniority. If students are concerned about mandatory deployment impacting their studies, please know that ISON is actively advocating on your behalf and that we will continue to be as flexible as possible to safeguard your academic success. We recommend that our students bring their concerns about mandatory deployment to their Nurse Managers or their union representative. For matters relating to your academic success potentially being impacted by mandatory deployment, we ask that students please reach out to the relevant Course Coordinator for the particular course or to the Program Director of your academic program if you feel that your entire program of study may be impacted. They will work with you to determine a solution based on your individual situation.

One option your Course Coordinator may discuss with you is the assignment of a “K” grade, which can be attributed in certain instances when course work is incomplete. Before assigning a “K” grade, a Course Coordinator will examine all possible solutions with the student. For more information on the “K” grade, undergraduate students should click [here](#); graduate students should reach out to their Course Coordinator for more information on the “K” grade and “K contract”.

### ***A reminder for our Master's Nurse-Entry and NP students:***

A number of you completed a brief survey that was sent to you recently in which you reported that demands are being made of you from your employers during this final-exam period. We recognize that you are experiencing a period of high stress. Please know that your concerns are being heard. We invite you to please join the December 16<sup>th</sup> Town Hall to voice any additional concerns or ask any questions you may have. We are concerned about your well-being and are here to support you in any way we can.

## *III. COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR STUDENTS*

Unfortunately, ISON is not privy to any information beyond that provided to the general public as regards the eventual distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine; the elderly population will be first to receive vaccinations for COVID-19. Healthcare workers are set to be second in line for vaccinations, which would include any nursing student who is employed in a healthcare setting, whether as a nurse or in any other capacity.

#### IV. [HSEL 309](#) START DATE AND UPDATE ON NUR1 AND NUR2 ADD/DROP DATES

Unlike NUR1 and NUR2 courses, HSEL will follow the University's delayed start/end dates for the Winter 2021 term. Therefore, any ISON student registered for HSEL 309 for the Winter 2021 semester can expect for it to begin on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that in the coming days, Enrolment Services will send an email to all students outlining the applicable add/drop and withdrawal registration dates for NUR1 and NUR2 courses.

#### V. RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

As mentioned in a previous update, we have been in contact with [Student Services](#) regarding events (virtual and otherwise) taking place over the holiday period to help with student morale and mental health. To that end, Student Services has compiled [a list of resources](#) from across the McGill community and throughout Montreal to help students feel connected and supported during the holiday break, which includes:

- **One-on-one appointment booking** with Student Wellness Hub clinicians throughout the holiday period
- **Online fitness content** from McGill Athletics
- **Ongoing remote programming** from the Hub's clinicians and Peer Health Ambassadors
- **E-resources** from the McGill Library
- **Mentoring Circles** via Campus Life & Engagement
- **Online spirituality resources** from MORSL
- **Volunteer opportunities** in and around the Montreal area
- A **Holiday Cheap Sheet** for budget tips and free or low-cost activities around Montreal

**Make sure to check back as Student Services will continue to update these resources.** If you have additions to add to the list, please contact [Genevieve.Latreille@mcgill.ca](mailto:Genevieve.Latreille@mcgill.ca).

#### VI. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAYING HEALTHY DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD AND THE START OF WINTER CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

The MSSS has delineated key guidelines for students with internships in the clinical healthcare settings. These guidelines are important to keep in mind for the holiday season and the clinical internships beginning as of January 4, 2021:

- Promote the practice of preventive community isolation (minimize social interactions and activities outside the home to avoid community acquisition of COVID-19) throughout the

holiday and subsequent internship period, regardless of the level of population alert in a region;

- Minimize extra-curricular social interactions;
- Ensure that physical distancing measures are respected at all times and that infection prevention and control measures are applied even in one's place of residence;
- Avoid non-essential risk behaviours such as contact sports.

As always, please do not hesitate to share any concerns or questions you may have with your elected NUS and NGSA representatives, or feel free to send your feedback to me directly through my assistant, Irina Cazac, at [directoradmin.nursing@mcgill.ca](mailto:directoradmin.nursing@mcgill.ca).

Best regards and stay safe,



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Cc:            McGill Dean of Students  
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