

Re: Weekly COVID-19-related update from the Director

January 22nd, 2021

Dear Students,

This is the second message of 2021 related to your studies at the Ingram School of Nursing (ISoN) in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. An archive of all weekly updates can be found on our website, organized by date [here](#).

If you were unable to attend the January 18th Town Hall, you may access the recording of it [here](#) with the passcode: **#&Up6kCj**.

I will cover three topics this week: (1) COVID-19 vaccinations for students; (2) possible implications of curfew for ISoN students' families; and (3) Phase 2 of MSSS Bursary Program

I. COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR STUDENTS

Since the last update, I can confirm that at the **CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (CIUSSS-ODIM)**, vaccinations are now being given to students concurrently with staff and according to unit. The **Jewish General Hospital (JGH)** continues to administer vaccinations to all students assigned there. We have no update from the **McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)** regarding their plans to vaccinate students.

For those of you who may be concerned about why only a single dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is being given in Quebec, I had the opportunity to hear the explanation from one of our **Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS)** experts. It seems that the results on efficacy provided by Pfizer were not presented in a way that facilitated interpretation of the efficacy of the first dose. The data on efficacy was measured from the day the vaccine was given although the vaccine doesn't lead to anti-body production until 12-14 days afterwards. ***The efficacy rate at 14-21 days after a single vaccine is 94%, which is approximately the same as after a second dose.*** The duration of the effect remains unclear, whether with one or two doses, and sub-group differences (e.g., elderly vs non-elderly) are under study. Health Canada approved the two-dose version of the vaccine but provinces have the authority to approve 'off-label' use. With that authority, Quebec has decided to allow administration of a single dose. This means that twice as many people will have access to some level of protection sooner than originally thought. This is great news and with it, we can at least *begin* to see the light at the end of the tunnel!

II. POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF CURFEW FOR ISON STUDENTS' FAMILIES

It was brought to my attention that due to the current enforcement of the province-wide curfew, some of our students and their parents, particularly those who are racialized, are concerned about the person dropping off the student being stopped by police when they are driving to and/or from clinical stages between 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. No occurrences of this have yet been reported within the FMHS to my knowledge. Remember that family members should keep a copy of the same material as the student they have dropped off/ are picking up to present to police if requested. Any problems with this safe-passage process should be reported by the student to the Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) at emergency.mgmt@mcgill.ca and cc'd to my assistant Irina Cazac, at directoradmin.nursing@mcgill.ca and me, at anita.gagnon@mcgill.ca.

III. PHASE 2 OF MSSS BURSARY PROGRAM

The MSSS put out a second call for the bursary program with slightly different start- and end-dates for the full employment required to receive the bursary, and with access to the program expanded to include students licensed to practice nursing in Quebec and studying at the graduate level in addition to the BNI students. With this new request, an additional six students applied for this bursary. Thanks to all of you who considered this opportunity to support our healthcare system.

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.

Best regards and stay safe,



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Cc: McGill Dean of Students
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ISON-based faculty and staff