Re: Student Travel during the Holiday Break

October 30, 2020

Dear Students,

This year’s holiday season will likely look very different from previous years for most of us due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, I’d like to take this opportunity to remind those students considering the prospect of travel in the upcoming weeks, to please respect all Public Health guidelines currently in place, and understand that they may change at a moment’s notice.

At this time, Quebec’s COVID regulations state that:

- The residents of a region or territory now designated as a red zone (Maximum Alert) must avoid travelling to a green, yellow or orange zone and outside Quebec, except for essential travel (workers, shared-child custody and freight transportation).

Furthermore, the University’s health guidelines indicate that:

- Travelers who have come to Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Given this information, we ask that you seriously weigh the possible risks that may be involved in travelling. If you are considering travel, you must ensure that upon your return you are able to self-isolate as necessary, while respecting the start date of the semester (January 4, 2021).

Please know that decisions involving laboratory courses and clinical placement scheduling are not taken lightly. In addition to ensuring that our students acquire the set of competencies necessary for their scheduled graduation date, we must put your health and safety and that of our clinical partners, their patients and the greater community at the very top of our list of priorities. To that end, the School will not be able to accommodate students who were unable to meet the self-isolation requirements before the start of their Winter lab and/or clinical courses and this can result in significant delays in your course of study.

I recognize how disappointing this news is to some of you and that the continuation of the restrictions required by the COVID-19 pandemic may be especially difficult if you are far from home. Your wellbeing is of utmost importance to us, and to that end, I urge you to reach out and make use of the resources available to you at McGill.
You have already come this far in your program of study in the midst of a pandemic. Think about the strength you found in yourselves to be here – the perseverance and commitment to continue despite the many difficulties COVID-19 put in your path. Thank you for your dedication to your studies and I wish you a healthy and safe remainder of the Fall semester.

Sincerely,

Anita J. Gagnon RN, MPH, PhD
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