



Dear ISON Community,

Here is today's update on the Ingram School of Nursing (ISON)'s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ISON Students

Clinical Placements

One of the many issues that the Pandemic Response Team (PRT) has been dealing with is the question of student clinical placements which were to have been completed during the Winter session. Each course was examined individually to determine: 1st, if the assigned number of clinical hours had already been completed or nearly so and 2nd, if the number of remaining hours, if any, could be replaced by another activity that would help students to meet the course objectives. For those courses with none or few remaining hours, students will have already heard from the Course Coordinators of those courses what to expect for the remainder of the Winter session. There are a few remaining clinical courses still under consideration and those Course Coordinators will update students within the next few days. The PRT has also been in touch with the School's clinical partners to understand how they see the next several weeks, both in terms of accepting students (if this is ultimately allowed by the Ministry) and the quality of support that could be offered to our learners in the clinical settings. Based on the information above, the PRT has decided that all clinical placements originally required to meet the objectives of Winter session clinical courses are cancelled. Furthermore, course requirements for clinical courses for U3 students will be able to be met this Winter semester, although students must ensure their availability for studies until April 30th. These decisions imply that students should no longer feel the need to remain in Montreal for the remainder of the Winter semester as long as their courses can be completed online elsewhere.

Graduation

The PRT is happy to confirm that because of the extremely hard work of the faculty, including the School's Technology Committee (TechCom), in thinking 'outside the box' and reconfiguring the remainder of Winter courses, all U3 students can anticipate graduating as planned. Whether the ceremony itself is to be held will be made known by the University at a later date.

Professionalism

The COVID-19 pandemic is shining a bright light on the important role of nurses in the health care system. Nursing students may not yet see themselves as role models for health and professionalism but the PRT would like to challenge ISON students to do so. Family members, friends and those you've never met will be watching you on social media and elsewhere to see what you do and how you behave during this pandemic. This is a perfect time to use your knowledge to help others understand what a pandemic is and why handwashing and social distancing work to prevent the spread of infection. It is also a key moment for you to be a role model regarding your own behaviour during this challenging time.

ISON Faculty

Course Coordinators, please don't forget to discuss major course changes with Program Directors prior to making those changes. Students should be given the revised Winter course outline by the first day that the online version starts. As far as possible, courses should be designed to be asynchronous for the remainder of the Winter session, to allow students to participate at a time of their choosing, given some may be working, have family responsibilities, or be in a different time zone. In deciding whether to offer occasional synchronous classes, consideration needs to be given to ensure structures are in place to maintain equity with students who may not be able to attend. Structures might include making discussion boards available or another strategy. TechCom would be happy to discuss the possibilities with you. Keep in mind that no graded assignments are allowed by the University until the week of March 30th (except NP assessments). Program Directors will work with you as a group to avoid potentially overloading students with assignments from several courses being due on the same day. In order to facilitate the organization of meetings, please ensure your Outlook calendars are up-to-date.



ISoN Administrative Staff (permanent, part-time, casual and work-study)

All administrative staff are to continue to work from home remotely, during their regular working hours, to the best of their capacity. Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions or require clarification.

Clinical Partners and Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

In the current context of uncertainty, the PRT has made the decision that all nursing students will meet their required clinical course objectives without additional days on the clinical units for the rest of the Winter 2020 session. At this time, no decision has been made for the Summer 2020 session, which is set to begin on May 1st 2020.

Support Services

Should any student need support, please use any of the resources below.

- Tracom (24/7). Qualified crisis intervention workers are available to take your call if you have feelings of confusion, anxiety, distress, and suicidal ideas. Tel.: 514-483-3033
- Drug and alcohol help (24/7). Speak with a trained counsellor for support. Toll-free in Quebec: 1-800-265-2626. Tel: 514-527-2626
- Suicide Action Montreal (24/7). They offer support services, crisis workers, and monitor for people who are at risk of suicide. Toll-free in Quebec: (1-866-APPELLE) 1-866-277-3553. Tel.: 514-723-4000

During this very challenging time, The WELL Office will remain open, however working remotely until March 30. The ISoN Wellness Consultants will be holding virtual counselling appointments which can be booked online:

www.mcgill.ca/thewelloffice/our-services/spot-scsd-ison/wellness-support/counselling-appointments.

Should any staff or faculty need support, please consult the McGill website, the Health Canada website, and the Employee assistance program is available 24/7.

Health is a Priority

The Quebec government asked that all individuals continue to practice social distancing, work remotely, and stay up-to-date with the measures taken to contain the spread. Regular updates from the Quebec government on COVID-19 can be found at: www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/#c46904

If you are symptomatic, the number to call is 1-877-644-4545.

Should you have any queries, all questions can be directed to: directoradmin.nursing@mcgill.ca

On behalf of the ISoN Pandemic Response Team,

Dr. Anita Gagnon