



Tuesday, March 24, 2020 | 9:00PM

Dear ISO N Community,

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

Students

To stay or to leave?

The Pandemic Response Team (PRT) understands that many students do not know if they should remain in Montreal or head home. It is an extremely difficult position to be in, especially if leaving might mean that you are unable to return. Unfortunately, the nature of a pandemic does not allow us to suggest an answer for you, one way or another. If you stay, there will be no risk of being unable to return, that is certain. If you leave, you may need to return in a month to start May/June clinical placements. There are strategies currently under discussion with the Ministries of Health and Education, as well as with our clinical partners, for clinical placements to continue again from the beginning of May. The course of the pandemic between now and then will be a key consideration for all parties. We are keen to ensure the wellbeing of students, while supporting our colleagues on the frontlines of nursing care in the midst of COVID-19. Things to consider as you make your decision include: stability of lodging; adequate funds (to stay or to travel); and existence of a social network in Montreal. The PRT strongly encourages you to discuss this with your family and close friends to help you arrive at an optimal decision.

Changing courses from grades to unsatisfactory or satisfactory

The PRT has heard this request, especially given that some students have been called back to work and/or have children at home. Leadership of the **BScN** and **BNI** programs have met and reviewed each course in their respective programs. In regards to the **BScN program**, the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option is acceptable for PSYC 204, EDPE 375 and any electives in which students are enrolled including NUR1 320 Critical Care Nursing - Section 2. NUR1 clinical courses are already Pass/Fail so S/U does not apply. No other NUR1 course can be converted from a grade to S/U. It was felt key that a range of measures be used to assess students on the various dimensions of nursing knowledge needed. For the **BNI program**, the S/U option is acceptable for PSYC 204, EDPE 375, and elective courses. Leadership of the **MSc(A)-NE**, **MSc(A)-DE**, and **PhD programs**, and the **NP diplomas** in all concentrations are currently examining what might be possible in the various programs and will have more information to share in the coming days.

Volunteer opportunity with CODIM

The Director of Nursing (Mme. Lucie Tremblay) for the CIUSSS Centre-Ouest de l'île de Montréal (CODIM) has requested volunteers from among ISO N students to participate in a **COVID-19 Testing Drive-Thru Initiative**. The CIUSSS CODIM has the mandate to put in place a drive-thru that would test 500 people per day for COVID 19. This drive-thru would be set up in the parking lot of Cavendish Mall beginning as early as March 25th and would be open from 08h00-20h00, seven days per week. It would be staffed by 6 clerical staff and 4 nurses using the following process:

1. Patients email their completed form to a unit agent, who gives them an appointment at the drive-thru for testing.
2. Once arrived at the drive-thru in their car, the patient would be "interviewed" by the clerical staff to validate their identity and coordinates.
3. Following this validation, the patient would see the nurse who would do the nasal swab. This nurse is wearing PPE. She places the specimen in a bag.
4. A second nurse (clean) would then accept this specimen into a clean bag (double bagging procedure) and is sent to the lab for testing.
5. Students would be assisting the nurse on the "clean" side. The support could include re-stocking, or other needs that do not include direct involvement with patients.

Any ISO N student interested in volunteering their time to this initiative should contact Nadia Susel: nsusel@jgh.mcgill.ca to make their interest known and discuss their availability.



Healthcare Worker Support Initiative

A *Healthcare Worker Support* initiative has been implemented in light of the hard work by those at the frontlines of COVID-19. This initiative grants the opportunity for students in McGill University healthcare programs to volunteer and offer support in child care, pet care, and grocery, pharmacy, and general errands. For more information on how to show solidarity with the healthcare community, please consult the following [form](#).

Faculty

A *Healthcare Worker Support* initiative has been implemented in light of the hard work by those at the frontlines of COVID-19. This initiative grants the opportunity for students in McGill University healthcare programs to volunteer and offer support in child care, grocery and pharmacy errands, pet care, and general errands. ISON faculty members who may be interested in utilizing this resource - please feel free to contact president.nus@mail.mcgill.ca for more details, or reach out to the student initiative coordinators zoe.oneill@mail.mcgill.ca, laura.pinkham@mail.mcgill.ca, and annexuanlan.nguyen@mail.mcgill.ca.

Support Services

Should any **student** need support, please consult 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

Dr. Anita Gagnon

On behalf of the ISON Pandemic Response Team