Dear ISoN Community,

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

**Students**

*Changing courses from grades to unsatisfactory or satisfactory* - **UPDATE**

Since receiving the *ISoN PRT - March 24th Update*, several students have reached out to describe the extent to which they feel the S/U grading option is imperative due to work and childcare constraints, as well as general anxiety given this unprecedented climate. In light of this feedback from a number of students, the PRT is in the process of revisiting the previously stated guidelines surrounding the S/U grading options. Guidelines as to how requests for the S/U grading option will be considered within ISoN, as well as a list of considerations students should reflect upon before requesting the S/U option, will be made available in the coming days.

For more information on the S/U grading option, please review the University [adjusted academic measures](#) resource page. Please note that the University’s S/U request form is not yet accessible.

**Winter 2020 course delivery** - **REMINDER**

A reminder that all course content will continue to be delivered virtually and asynchronously until the end of the Winter 2020 term. Students are expected to ensure their availabilities through to April 30th so that all material and assessments can be completed.

**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 ISoN 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 ISoN 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.
Faculty

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Healthcare Worker Support

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