

On behalf of Dr. Rvachew:

Dear SCSD Students,

I am writing to share some details about what the next two weeks will look like for SCSD students, faculty and staff:

1. Wellness

These are very confusing times. I am sure you are very anxious and it doesn't help to be missing daily contact with your class mates. I will ask the Faculty to begin organizing virtual meetings with their advisees in small groups so that we can check in with you, provide information and advice, and receive your questions and concerns.

2. Coursework

The university cancellation of classes DOES NOT APPLY TO OUR SCHOOL (please note exception in yesterday's memo from the provost). The university expects to end the winter term at the usual time. This means that teaching and learning in our school cannot stop. Your instructors are contacting you to explain how they have modified your courses and course requirements. Please follow their instructions. Faculty will meet regularly so that we can share experiences and learn how to support you best in an on-line environment.

3. Clinical Practicums

I am sure that you have the most questions and concerns about your clinical practicums. I will meet with the Clinical Education Team this afternoon and we will be communicating solutions with you as they emerge.

4. Social Distancing

Please understand that the cancelation of classes is meant to enable social distancing. Specifically, Premier Legault said that "Quebecers should only leave home if they're going to work, buying food and essentials, or helping people in need, such as the elderly." New data from South Korea indicates that young people in their 20s are very frequent carriers of the virus. I don't want you to all feel terrified because the overall risk remains low especially given the measures that our society has taken; at the same time, I don't want you to feel invulnerable.

5. Travel

Please remain cognizant of the McGill University and Government of Canada guidelines on travel and avoid travel unless necessary. I know that some of you have returned home and some

of you have had no choice about travelling. I appreciate your keeping me informed of your travel plans.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/travellers>

6. Communications

I know that it has been confusing to receive many different messages from the University, the Faculty of Medicine and SCSD. In some cases, internal (SCSD) messaging may be more relevant or accurate for your particular situations and you may need a way to find those messages. We will discuss our communications strategy at Director's Council on Tuesday morning. I invite the students on the Learning Environment committee and on Student's Council to contact me with ideas for ensuring rapid communications with the school and between faculty and students during this period.

7. SCSD Facilities:

Admin staff will work remotely so the best means to contact them is email. Rest assured that they will continue to provide all the support you need during this period. The building remains open and accessible with your fobs for now but in order to insure social distancing we advise that you avoid using the space unless absolutely necessary. If the situation changes you will be informed.

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