

**Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies  
MINUTES**

Meeting of December 21st, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. TEAMS Conferencing Application

Present:	Chris Buddle (Co-Chair)	Regrets :	Gillian Nycum (SME/resource person)
	Angela Campbell (Co-Chair)	Guest :	Fabrice Labeau
	Jennifer Chen		
	Nancy Czommel		
	Claire Downie		
	Rebecca Fuhrer		
	Petra Rohrbach		
	Daniel Weinstock		
	Laura Winer		
	Elyse Cragg (communications)		
	Paola Colapelle (secretary)		

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**Communications update**

Prof. Buddle informed the Committee that at the present time, given the rapidly evolving circumstances tied to COVID, clear and timely communications are a challenge. Yesterday evening's MRO Communication was based on information provided during the press conference by Quebec Health Minister Christian Dubé, held earlier in the day. It provided sufficient information to prepare communications regarding the last day of exams and operations until the end of Fall 2021 semester.

**Recovery and Operations Resumption Committee (ROR) update**

Prof. Labeau provided an overview of government directives received daily given the unpredictable and fluid public health situation.

A significant challenge pertains to contact tracing and the fact that COVID-19 PCR testing centres have attained full capacity. The proposed solution by the Ministry of Health is to conduct a rapid antigen test at home which detects viral proteins and only if the test result is positive, after which a COVID-19 PCR test would be required to confirm the presence of the novel coronavirus.

Although it is presently challenging to acquire rapid antigen testing kits, it appears that this may become the new protocol to detect the Omicron variant; with a first layer of testing performed at home and a second layer in COVID-19 testing centres, to confirm positive cases.

With the exception of in-person final exams scheduled today, the University has entered a period of mainly remote operation, until January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 inclusively. There will be no activities on campus during this period aside from research that can only be conducted in labs and critical in-person teaching activities, largely in the health science professions.

Although government directives are changing frequently, we will adapt as these changes become official and the most effective ways to handle the COVID-19 Omicron variant become more evident. As the situation evolves, information will be communicated rapidly to students, faculty, and staff for the Winter 2022 term, and will provide as much lead time as possible.