

School of Social Work Biweekly Update

April 3, 2020

[\(Click here for FAQs and SSW Update archive\)](#)

*In our efforts to support the School's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this email provides a **twice weekly (Tuesdays & Fridays)** update of the activities undertaken by members of the School of Social Work and summarizes any new relevant developments at the level of the University. Our efforts are all aimed at the same goal – to support the health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff, and to ensure that our students are successful in meeting academic degree requirements.*

*Please consult the University's Coronavirus webpage: <https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/> for the most up to date information. Members of the McGill community who have flu-like symptoms should **call 1-877-644-4545**.*

Classes

Zoom classroom confidentiality: Instructors are encouraged secure their Zoom class sessions with a password that they can send to students by email or use the waiting room function to manage who comes into the meeting "room". Students and instructors are also encouraged to the virtual background options to maintain a sense of privacy while using video in your homes. Instructors can contact zack.marshall@mcgill.ca, michael.j.mackenzie@mcgill.ca, or heather.macintosh@mcgill.ca for help in setting up these options.

Field

The Field Education Team will continue to outreach to field placement sites and community partners to see if they can accommodate remote learning/virtual field placements for students who were scheduled for summer block placements. More information to follow next week

School Community Well-Being & Support

The School Community Well-Being & Support groups have developed some School specific FAQs. These are posted at <https://www.mcgill.ca/socialwork/news/ssw-daily-update-archive-faq-covid-19-news>

Volunteering: The province is partnering with more than 1,500 community organizations to provide help during the crisis. Volunteer activities include making calls to seniors, getting groceries for people with disabilities and providing household help for those in need. Anyone who wants to volunteer can sign up online at <https://www.jebenevole.ca>

Financial support for students (including international students)

Have you had to stop working because of COVID-19? (applies to non-students, as well – share the info!)

- If you have worked more than 600 hours in the past 12 months and *aren't returning to McGill in September*, you may qualify for **Regular EI insurance** (if you were laid off), **Sickness Benefits** (if you are off work because you are sick or have to be in quarantine) or **Compassionate Care Benefits** (you have to care for someone in a critical, life-threatening work situation): <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html>
- If you don't qualify for employment insurance but had to stop working (including as a self-employed worker) because you or a family member are ill with COVID-19 or you are in quarantine according to

the guidelines (direct contact with a person who had COVID-19 or returned from overseas travel), you can apply for Quebec's **Temporary Aid for Workers**

Program: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/financial-assistance/temporary-aid-for-workers-program/> (minimum of \$5000 income in past 12 months, *available to international students*)

- If you were laid off from your job or lost your self-employment income because of COVID-19, if you stopped working because of illness, a need to self-isolate or because you have to be at home to care for young children, you can apply for the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html> (minimum of \$5000 income in past 12 months, *available to international students*)

Are you having financial difficulties but none of the above situations apply to you?

- McGill's Student Aid Office is offering special help at this time: <https://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/>

PhD Cohort Check-in Monday, April 6th, 10-11 am: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/868439174>

Meeting ID: 868 439 174

Spatium et Caritas

Practice social distancing and social care; offer help, ask for help.

Best,

Nico

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