

## Protocol in Case of Cluster or Outbreak of COVID-19 on Campus

Updated: May 19, 2021

With the projected return to classes in Fall 2021, VBCCM has procedures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campus. However, we recognize there always remains the potential for the spread of COVID-19 due to student proximity, regardless of best efforts in maintaining 6' distance.

In the event of multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 on campus, within a 14-day period, Alexander College will respond with the following measures:

- Follow all guidelines and procedures required by Public Health;
- Make necessary changes as determined by Public Health;
- Suspend in-person classes and attendance on campus until it is deemed safe to re-open the campus;
- Support all staff and faculty affected by COVID-19 and in self isolation, allowing them to work from home and/or take days off as needed;
- Support students affected by COVID-19 and in self isolation and create accommodation plans to complete their coursework.

### **Health Monitoring:**

1. Ensure that faculty, staff, and students know how to report exposure incidents. Individuals are urged to report any exposure incidents to the President, at 604-207-9389 to report the incident.
2. Ensure that any students/faculty/staff/visitors who report symptoms of illness are not permitted on campus. If an individual falls ill while on campus, they must report to First Aid at the front desk, put on an N95 mask, provide their name, phone number, and student ID if applicable. They are required to leave the campus immediately and consult 811 for further guidance. If they cannot leave immediately, they are required to wear an N95 masks, isolate in the First Aid Health and Wellness room until they can arrange transportation home. All surfaces that the affected individual touched will be cleaned and disinfected promptly by custodians.

3. Individuals who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19, or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must complete the [BC self assessment tool](#) and follow the recommendations of the assessment, which may require:
  - a. Calling 811 for further screening
  - b. Self-isolation for 14 days
  - c. Self-monitoring for symptoms and return to normal activities
4. Staff or faculty in self-isolation will remain in contact with the President and are prohibited from entering campus while in isolation. If a staff or faculty member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they are prohibited from entering the campus while contagious and under isolation orders. [BC CDC guidelines](#) for ending isolation recommend that those diagnosed with COVID-19:
  - a. Must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days since the onset of symptoms and,
  - b. That fever is gone without using fever-reducing medications and,
  - c. The individual must be feeling better (improvement and reduction in symptoms).
5. Students in self-isolation will remain in contact with the President and the student is provided with the college's self-isolation plan. Students in self-isolation are prohibited from entering campus. If a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they are prohibited from entering the campus while contagious and under isolation orders. [BC CDC guidelines](#) for ending isolation recommend that those diagnosed with COVID-19:
  - a. Must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days since the onset of symptoms and,
  - b. That fever is gone without using fever-reducing medications and,
  - c. The individual must be feeling better (improvement and reduction in symptoms).

VBCCM requires that a student submit a medical clearance certificate to approval prior to resuming attendance on campus.

Wellness checks are provided daily by the President, and the student's record is updated to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are made aware if they need to self-isolate. These include:

- The student's immediate family and emergency contacts as identified on their intake form
- All instructors for classes the student is currently taking, and any close student contacts they may have had in class
- College administration
- Provincial health authorities through continuing reporting measures

The President, under direction from the student's medical practitioner, then offer individualized Accommodations plans to ensure equitable treatment across the institution while the student recovers, which current estimates regarding timeline indicate are anywhere from between two to six weeks. These Accommodations, dependent on the severity of the symptoms, may include exam deferrals, attendance appeals, grade appeals and late withdrawals among others.

**Record Keeping:**

6. The President will maintain detailed First Aid Reports and incidents of exposure on campus.
7. Mandatory campus sign-in for staff and faculty. This information will be stored should we need to have it for contact tracing.
8. Students' attendance on campus will be tracked by faculty using the class attendance system on MyAC. For students not attending a class on campus, but accessing a service, they are required to make an appointment and detailed records of student names and student ID numbers are kept by each department providing services to students. This information will be stored should we need to provide them later for contact tracing.

**Consult with Local Health Authorities:**

9. Members of the Health and Safety Committee will consult with the local [B.C. Medical Health Officers](#) for each campus, regarding COVID-19 case management and contact tracing protocols.

**Richmond campus:** Fraser Health Authority, Fraser

North. Dr. Ingrid [Tyler, Ingrid.tyler@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Ingrid.tyler@fraserhealth.ca) ,

Phone: 604-587-7890, Fax: 604-930-5414, After Hours: 604-527-4806

#400 - 13450 102nd Ave Central City Tower Surrey BC V3T 0H1

**Campus Protocols:**

10. Where a student, staff, or faculty member that has been on campus has been diagnosed with a confirmed case of COVID-19, VBCCM will immediately restrict access to the parts of the campus that the person was in. Details of the individual's movements and time spent on campus will be gathered from the attendance records kept and in contacting the individual over the phone. If there was movement in shared common areas connected to the college, the building manager will be notified about the movements so that a plan can be implemented for closure/disinfection within non-college spaces.
11. VBCCM will suspend all in-person classes and staff or faculty attendance on campus while the campus custodians complete campus cleaning and disinfection of the campus, which requires a wait period of 48 hours firstly, then through disinfection of the campus. The campuses will only be opened after confirmation that all surfaces have been cleaned and disinfected throughout the building.
12. If an outbreak is suspected, public health will be consulted and staff, faculty and students will be required to go home immediately, and work from home for a period of 14 days since the first known occurrence of the outbreak. They are required to self-monitor for symptoms during the 14 days, and to follow the recommendations of the [BC self assessment tool](#) or call 811 should symptoms develop.
13. Adaptations for work will be made to support all staff, faculty and students at home during the 14-day period. Only limited staff with work requiring timely physical access to the campus will be permitted (such as custodians and security), and those staff must adhere to:
  - a. Daily self-monitoring of symptoms and sign-in system;
  - b. Limiting the time on campus to those tasks required on campus;
  - c. Limit use of common rooms such as lunch rooms;
  - d. Wear personal protective equipment at all times on campus;
  - e. Maintain regular disinfection of surfaces at their workspace and frequent handwashing/sanitization throughout the day.
14. These guidelines also apply to external contacts that regularly enter the campus, such as security or maintenance personnel. The President will work in conjunction with the supervisors of these external contacts, to ensure necessary security and maintenance can be provided with strict health and safety measures in place.
15. Following the outbreak, the President will hold a review of the current safety protocols and consult with involved staff, faculty, and students about changes in protocol. All staff, faculty and students will be reminded to review the training for safety protocol on campus, and notified promptly in writing, verbally (on campus) and through signage about any changes in protocol. Emergency protocol and planning will continue to be reviewed and adapted over time.