



ALBERTA
ADVANCED EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

Dear Board Chairs:

I'm writing to you today to give you additional information about the Government's plan to begin removing COVID-19 restrictions, as announced by Premier Kenney yesterday, February 8, 2021.

First, I'd like to thank you for your commitment to Alberta's post-secondary system. I know it requires a lot of your time and energy and all Albertans are indebted to you for your leadership and determination. Particularly as you have worked to navigate your institution through the ever-changing complexities COVID-19 has thrown our way. I commend you, senior administration and all staff at your institutions for helping to keep Albertans safe while ensuring they can continue with their academic learning and job training with little disruption.

In the press conference, Premier Kenney noted that Alberta's Government intends to move forward with a phased approach to the removal of COVID-19 measures. Stage one involves the removal of the Restriction Exemption Program effective at midnight, February 8, 2022. Other operators such as churches, libraries and post-secondary institutions will return to normal capacity limits.

Stage two, expected to begin on March 1, will see the removal of remaining restrictions on businesses and other organizations. Masking will no longer be mandatory in indoor settings and the work from home order will be lifted.

Essentially, post-secondary institutions will have the full ability to return to pre-pandemic delivery without the need to enforce physical distancing, implement proof of vaccination programs and masking effective March 1. It is my expectation that all of Alberta's universities, colleges and polytechnics will align their COVID-19 policies and practices with that of Alberta's Government. Like you, I am eager to see students returning to in-person learning without masking and proof of vaccination requirements this March.

As we start inviting students back to campus, please continue to promote vaccination and follow the current health orders and guidance, as appropriate.

If your post-secondary institution has any concerns or needs support as you plan for your return to campus, please contact Peter Leclaire, Assistant Deputy Minister, Insight, Transformation and Innovation, Advanced Education, by email at peter.leclaire@gov.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-641-9349. You will also receive an invitation to another town hall with Advanced Education and Alberta Health in the coming days.

Student learning and a positive student experience remains a priority and again I want to reiterate my appreciation, acknowledgement and support with how post-secondary institutions have been able to adapt to ensure effective teaching and learning experiences continue to be available for students. This gives me confidence that our students will end their Winter 2022 semesters in-person with their classmates, while staying safe.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaidis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Demetrios Nicolaidis
Minister of Advanced Education

cc: Dr. Deena Hinshaw
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Honourable Jason Copping
Minister of Health

Post-Secondary Institution Presidents