

From: Robinson, Stacey
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:10 AM
Subject: Return to Campus Planning Digest - June 15, 2021

Welcome back to our fourth edition of our Academic Return to Campus Planning Digest.

The goal of the digest is to provide timely information on Academic matters to Deans, as to the current state of how we are planning a safe return to campus. Our main focus as we plan for the resumption of on-campus activities is safety, for all faculty, staff and students.

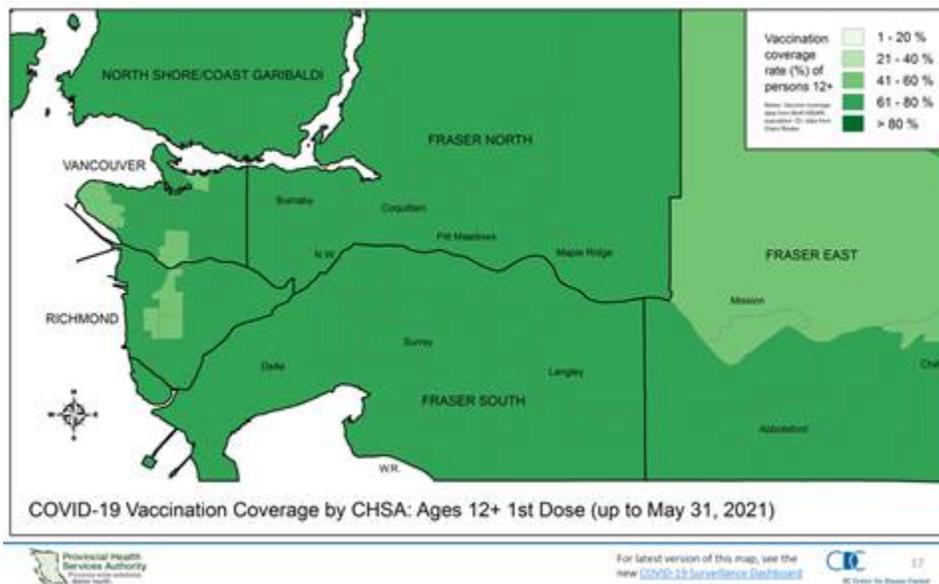
In this week's edition, we have the response to questions raised at the VP Academic Town Halls, updated information on ventilation (UBC's response to enhance building ventilation systems and reduce the risk of airborne infectious aerosol exposure), news from IT regarding WiFi and network upgrades in preparation for the fall.

If there are any topics that you would like us to address, let us know at provost.office@ubc.ca.

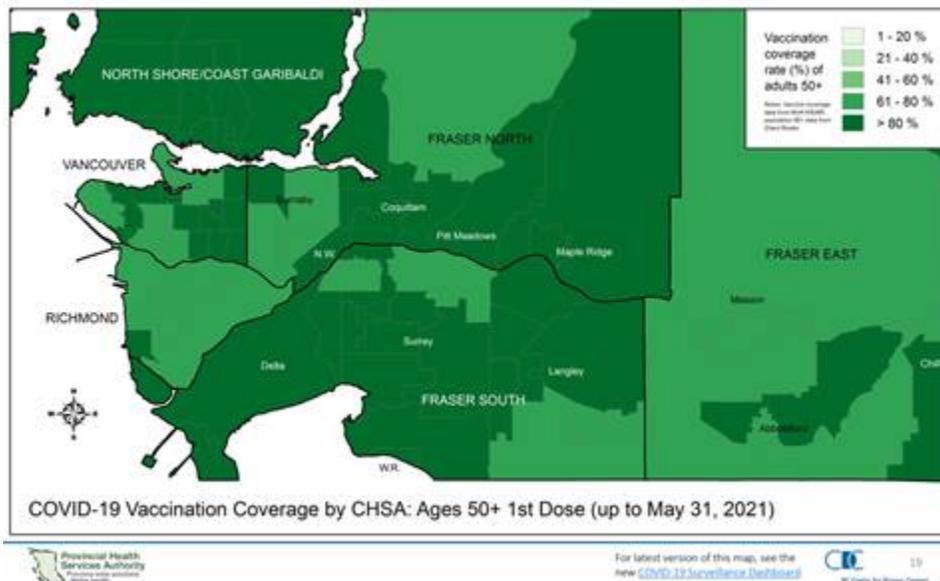
COVID-19 and BC: The Data

- [BC's Restart 2.0 Plan](#): Phase 2 starts [June 15, 2021](#)
- [Epi-week 21: May 23 - May 29, 2021](#) (Posted June 9, 2021): provides an in-depth look at COVID-19 epidemiology, underscoring data and key trends.
- [June 3 Weekly Data Summary](#) (Posted June 8, 2021): a summary of COVID-19 related indicators that can help inform the pandemic response in BC.

[Vaccination Coverage by CHSA: Ages 12+:](#)



Vaccination Coverage by CHSA: Ages 50+:



Return to Campus planning: VP Academic Town Hall on June 15, and response to FAQs

We have prepared an information document based on the questions posed at the VP Academic Town Halls on Jun 2, 3 and 4. That information is available at <https://academic.ubc.ca/return-to-campus-town-halls-response>, and it focuses on four main areas: Return to Campus Planning, Academic, Safety Planning, Employee Supports, and Operational Supports and Campus Services.

Our final town hall will be held on June 15, 2021, and will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

Response Session:

- June 15, 12-1.30pm
- Open to UBCV faculty and staff members
- Register to join the Zoom call:
https://ubc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x1UeyXkHTLiB_Z12nQi9iw
- If it is full, you can still view the live stream here:
<https://ubc.ca.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=47c72f94-832d-4d71-88ff-ad470135cfc6>

Ventilation and HVAC

With the updated guidance on May 5, 2021 from the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) regarding airborne transmission of COVID-19, the performance of our building ventilation systems remains a particular focus to ensure systems are in good operating condition.

UBC established a COVID-19 HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) Working Group to review and consider implementation of technical recommendations to enhance building ventilation systems and reduce the risk of airborne infectious aerosol exposure in buildings owned and operated by UBC. As the university prepares to resume on-campus instruction and ensure a safe indoor environment, the working group has prioritized our campus teaching spaces.

The working group team includes professional engineers and Subject Matter Experts in the design, maintenance and operation of building mechanical systems, and in occupational and environmental health. The group assessed building ventilation systems and formed recommendations based on information from the [American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers](#), [WorkSafeBC](#), and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) to ensure a high standard of safety and to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The working group had many discussions about best practices and took a balanced approach providing practical solutions that will ensure safe building environments that can be effectively implemented based on the complexity and limitations of our campus buildings.

Increased Ventilation and Outdoor Air

Ventilation will be increased on main air handling units (AHU) that serve classrooms, offices, lunchrooms, hallways, study spaces, lobbies, etc. This will be done by implementing the methods below:

- AHUs will be programmed to increase operations to include an additional two hours of pre- or post-occupancy flush of air.
- Outdoor air will be increased above ASHRAE design quantity during occupied hours; the level of increased outdoor air will depend on equipment design limitations to ensure occupant comfort and humidity levels.
- The current schedule of AHUs that are not scheduled to be on 24/7 will be reviewed to confirm that the times that the building is primarily occupied mirror the times the units are on.

AHUs that serve laboratory spaces operate 24/7 and are designed to bring in 100% outdoor air.

Improved Air Filtration

- The majority of filters on campus are equipped with ASHRAE-recommended MERV13 filters. Where mechanical system design allows, any filters that are not currently MERV13 will be upgraded.
- Building AHU filters are changed based on the operating context, inspection results, diagnostic readings and time-based replacements.

Enhanced Maintenance & Upgrades

- Physical inspections are being undertaken to ensure function of outdoor air dampers and HVAC controls on main air handling units.
- A review of the feasibility of upgrading teaching spaces without mechanical systems (

Air Monitoring

- We are working through air monitoring parameters with the School of Population & Public Health, Occupation and Environmental Health Division. The focus will be on areas with no mechanical ventilation and have higher occupancy to determine if areas are meeting acceptable CO2 levels.

These measures, in addition to already established operations and maintenance practices, will enhance the functionality of building HVAC systems to ensure a high standard of safety for students, faculty and staff at UBC.

UBC Facilities Managers will be working with Building Administrators to share updated information as we progress. More information on ventilation systems for specific teaching spaces will be available by the end of June on the [UBC Facilities website](#).

IT

WiFi and Network Upgrades for Fall Preparedness

UBC IT Network and Infrastructure staff have been upgrading and planning for increased WiFi connections across campus as part of fall preparedness and the anticipation of more faculty, students, and staff returning to campus.

The plans include converting a number of legacy student residences from hardwired to WiFi due to demand for internet services in fully occupied residences. Key academic buildings have been identified where upgraded WiFi and increased core network capacity are being considered to meet the need for some online teaching delivery. In addition, increased outdoor WiFi coverage may be considered for a better student roaming experience, and in anticipation of an increased desire to be in outdoor spaces.

Useful UBC COVID-19 Resources

- UBC COVID-19 Response: <https://covid19.ubc.ca/>
- SRS COVID-19 Health & Safety: <https://srs.ubc.ca/covid-19/health-safety-covid-19/>
- Student COVID-19 support: <https://students.ubc.ca/support>
- Graduate Student & Postdoc COVID-19 support: <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/covid-19>
- BC Government Return-to-Campus Primer: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/return-to-campus-primer.pdf>