

From: UBC Vancouver Provost & VP Academic Office
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:14 PM
Subject: Return to Campus Planning digest – July , 2021

Welcome to the sixth 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 an update on UBC's safety planning processes, including information about new mandatory training for employees; the new tuition prepayment program to allow students to access to the expedited study permit processing stream; student bursary information for those who may need to quarantine upon their arrival in Canada, as well as for accessing technology necessary for online learning; and preparing for the return to campus with the CTLT Summer Institute (Aug. 23-27).

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

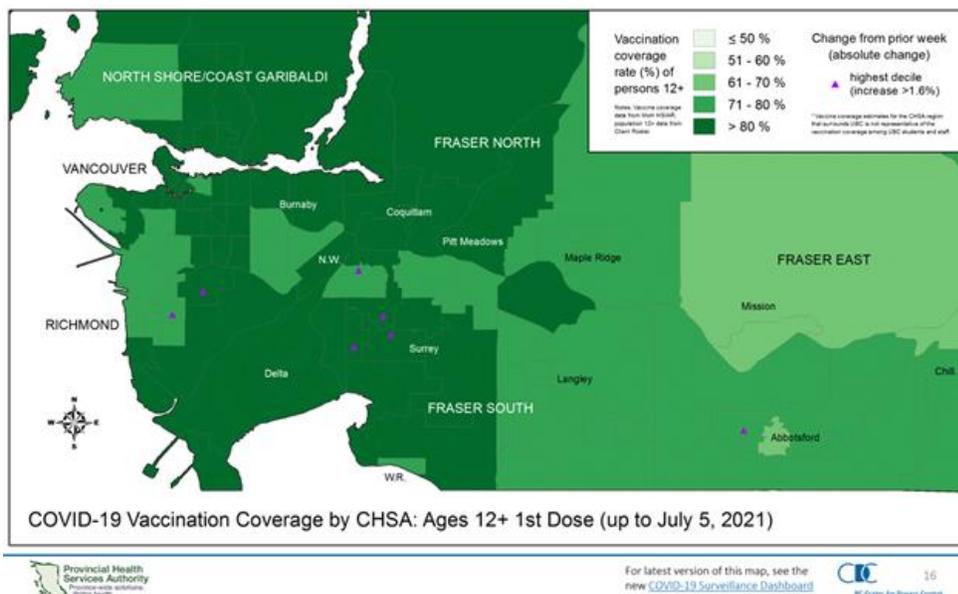
Please distribute broadly to all faculty and staff within your respective departments and units.

In this week's edition:

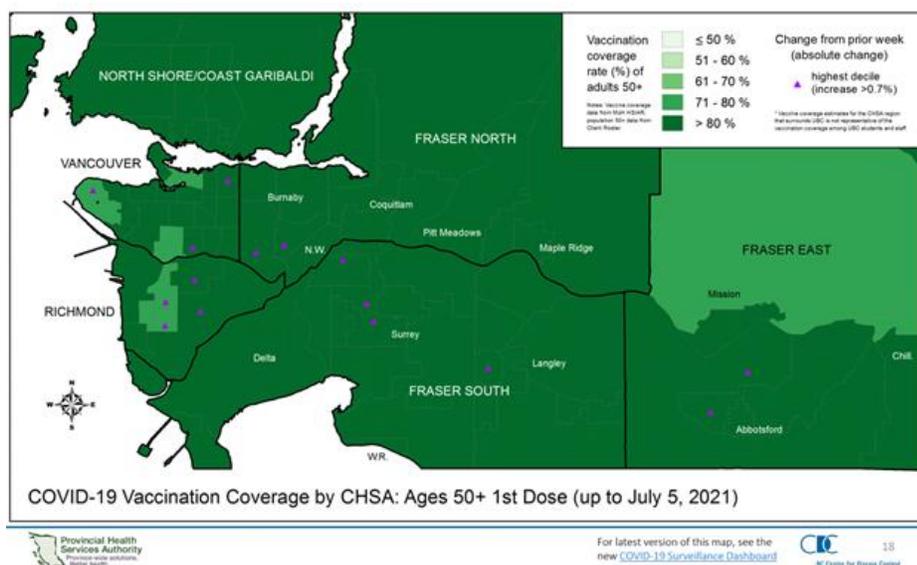
COVID-19 and BC: The data

- [BCCDC COVID-19 Situational Report Week 26: June 27 - July 3, 2021](#) (posted July 14, 2021): provides an in-depth look at COVID-19 epidemiology, underscoring data and key trends.
- [July 8 Weekly Data Summary](#) (Posted July 15, 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+:



Updates on UBC's safety planning process

Following the [UBC Bulletin on June 28](#), we have a summary of important updates about the safety planning process. With the Provincial Health Officer announcing the commencement of [Step 3 of the BC Restart Plan](#) on July 1, 2021, UBC's [streamlined safety plan framework](#) is now in effect.

- New institution-wide [safety plans](#) are now in effect and do not require customization, simply implementation. They are based on activities, so please choose the plan(s) that suits your needs. All existing safety plans should be archived and replaced by these new institution-wide safety plans.
- A new mandatory campus-specific training course is now available on WPL for [UBC Vancouver](#) & [UBC Okanagan](#). This course, which replaces the "Preventing COVID-19 Infection in the Workplace" course, must be completed by all faculty, staff, and student employees currently working on campus or returning to campus.
- The [UBC Campus Rules](#) have been updated to align with [Step 3 of the BC Restart Plan](#).
- In addition to the UBC requirements outlined in the Campus Rules, if your work area relies on additional sector-specific guidance to operate, visit the [Safety Plan page](#) to learn more.
- Further safety planning advice and guidance is available here: [Guidance Documents](#) & [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

UBC continues to monitor and adhere to Provincial Health direction and advice from local health authorities and sector-specific regulators to ensure we comply with the latest orders, notices and guidance. Highlights include:

- UBC's seven institution-wide safety plans align with guidance from Public Health and [Step 3 of the BC Restart Plan](#), as well as [COVID-19 Return-to-Campus Guidelines](#) for post-secondary institutions.

- Changes in public health direction mean even if a person previously took the course “Preventing COVID-19 Infection in the Workplace” they will need to complete the new course for current information.
- Posting COVID-19 safety plans in the workplace or online is no longer required.
- Non-medical masks are recommended but not mandatory in indoor common spaces for all people 12 and older who are not yet fully vaccinated.
- Employees are still required to do daily health checks but do not have to report completion to their supervisors.

The [COVID-19 Return-to-Campus Guidelines of July 5, 2021](#), provided by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training state that “post-secondary institutions should not introduce COVID-19 prevention measures that are different from those supported by public health professionals.”

Please contact ready.ubc@ubc.ca if you need assistance as you navigate this phase of recovery.

Pre-paying tuition in support of the Student Direct Stream

Starting June 15, UBC is accepting prepayment of 2021/22 tuition, upon request, from international students residing in select countries. UBC is committed to ensuring as many new international students as possible can travel to Canada to begin their UBC journey, in person, for 2021/22 Winter Session, Term 1. Supporting tuition prepayment allows students to take advantage of the Government of Canada’s expedited study permit processing stream, Student Direct Stream (SDS). Visit the [new SDS prepayment page](#) for more information and answers to some frequently asked questions.

Need-based quarantine bursaries for students returning to Canada

Many students, both domestic and international, are facing unprecedented challenges related to travel under current government restrictions to help control the spread of COVID-19.

The [UBC Quarantine Bursary](#) is a one-time needs-based bursary to support UBC students who do not meet [current federal exemptions](#) for mandatory quarantine upon arrival in Canada.

Effective July 5, the federal government introduced exemptions to these requirements for travellers who meet specific conditions. These exemptions are limited to people who are asymptomatic, meet the requirements of fully vaccinated travellers, and meet all other entry requirements. Additional steps have been announced by the Federal Government, including the elimination of the mandatory three-night hotel stay requirement, effective Aug. 9. Read the [Government’s press release here](#).

It is likely that some students will continue to need to quarantine upon their arrival to Canada (after Aug. 9), and there will be insufficient space in student housing to support them. Some undergraduate and graduate, international and domestic students may still need to stay in hotels for 14 nights depending on their test results, quarantine requirements, and so forth. Some of these students likely do not have the financial means to cover the full cost of this accommodation and associated expenses.

For the 2021/22 academic year, eligible students in need of financial support to meet their quarantine requirements are being invited to respond to a Qualtrics survey which will be coordinated by Enrolment Services for consideration of a bursary to help cover some of their expenses directly related to hotel and meal costs during the quarantine period. In circumstances where some financial assistance is required, a low barrier approach will be applied.

Students at the Vancouver campus received an email on July 20 with a link to the survey. If you are aware of a student who has financial concerns related to quarantine requirements, please refer them to the [UBC Quarantine Bursary page](#).

Reminder of UBC Vancouver technology bursary for students

As a reminder for students who may have a portion of their classes online in September, the UBC Vancouver Technology Bursary is a one-time needs-based bursary to help students meet the basic requirements of online learning by supporting the costs of necessary equipment such as headphones, web cameras, specialized accessibility technology, or Internet access. Students with accessibility needs can also be supported through the technology bursary. Students can review their eligibility for this bursary on the [UBC Vancouver Technology Bursary page](#).

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS): Support in returning to campus

G+PS survey of incoming international graduate students: In late May, 2021 G+PS conducted a survey with all incoming international graduate students (1,554) across both campuses. [See the results here](#) (*CWL required for UBC Faculty and Staff*). Results were shared with academic units and Dean's offices, and a comprehensive message was distributed to all incoming international graduate students at UBCV to address many of the concerns that were raised in the survey.

Support for graduate advisors and graduate programs: Since March 2020, G+PS has sent four dedicated COVID-19 messages to all G+PS members (supervisors) with the latest on July 10, 2021, focusing on considerations for returning to in-person research activities. [See copies here](#).

Orientations with a focus on returning to campus: G+PS is offering Welcome events for international for both international and domestic students on Sept 2nd. These will continue to be online to allow for greater accessibility for all students. [See the Resources page here](#).

See the attached PDF for a full summary of G+PS return-to-campus activities in support of the transition back to camps for students as well as advisors and staff.

Preparing for a return to the classroom: CTLT Summer Institute (Aug. 23-27, 2021)

The 2021 CTLT Summer Institute, a resource for faculty and teaching assistants, will take place online from August 23-27. This year's workshops will focus on the fundamentals of teaching and learning as we prepare to return to teaching in-person as well as with some online options. The Summer Institute serves as a forum for new members of the teaching and learning community to collaborate, network and engage in knowledge exchange.

Visit the [Summer Institute program page](#) to view the full course listing and to register for this year's events.

Useful UBC COVID-19 Resources

- UBC COVID-19 Response: <https://covid19.ubc.ca/>
- SRS COVID-19 Health & Safety: <https://srs.ubc.ca/covid-19/>
- Student COVID-19 support: <https://students.ubc.ca/support>
- Graduate Student & Postdoc COVID-19 support: <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/covid-19>

Other COVID-19 Resources

- COVID-19 Return-to-Campus Guidelines for B.C.'s Post-Secondary Institutions: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/covid19-return-to-campus-guidelines-web.pdf> (Updated July 5, 2021)
- Translink COVID-19 Precautions: <https://www.translink.ca/rider-guide/coronavirus-precautions>
- BCCDC Covid-19 Data: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

You will find links to previous editions of this Digest here: <https://academic.ubc.ca/academic-community/news-announcements/news/return-campus-planning-digest-archive>

Thank you for reading. If you have any questions, please let us know.

G+PS initiatives to ease and support the transition back to campus for graduate students, supervisors and graduate advisors (May-September, 2021)

Support for Incoming international students

In late May, 2021 G+PS conducted a survey with all incoming international graduate students (1,554) across both campuses. For UBCV, 54% responded to provide information about their location, visa application status, and key concerns. While 87% were still outside Canada, most (93%) had applied for a study permit and planned to travel to Canada. Of those in Canada, most had received or applied for a study visa if needed (results can be found [here](#) *(CWL required for UBC Faculty and Staff)*). Results were shared with all academic units and Faculty Dean's offices on June 11. On June 16 a comprehensive message was distributed to all incoming international graduate students at UBCV to address many of the concerns that were raised in the survey.

G+PS has worked closely with International Student Development (ISD) to resolve the visa changes for Indian students when concerns about conditional offer letters were raised. On May 13th, we emailed customized and personalized support letters to all students potentially affected by this sudden change in order to increase their chances of a successful study permit application.

Support for graduate advisors and graduate programs

G+PS has held 31 program meetings (average attendance of 116) since the beginning of the pandemic. Currently, these meetings are scheduled monthly. Latest developments and updates are shared with all attendees and questions discussed, often including guest speakers from other offices such as ISD, ES, Housing etc. A summary of all meetings is distributed by email to program administrators and advisors the week after the meeting.

Since March 2020, G+PS has sent four dedicated COVID-19 messages to all G+PS members (supervisors) with the latest from July 10, 2021, focusing on considerations for returning to in-person research activities. Copies of each message are available on our [website](#).

Communications with new and continuing graduate students

Onboarding messages have been sent to newly admitted students beginning with a welcome email, followed by information, resources and reminders on the following topics: study permits, student housing, admissions offer confirmation, document requirements, course registration, tuition and student fees, awards and scholarships, UBCcard, UPass, medical insurance, UBC email address, making friends and getting involved, arriving in Canada, arrival tips, and an invitation to GradStart (orientation). See a repository of these messages [here](#) *(CWL required for UBC Faculty and Staff)*. A specific welcome email was also sent to all incoming Indigenous graduate students with information and resources available. In addition, our Indigenous Specialist has been working one-on-one with incoming and continuing Indigenous graduate students and programs to ensure additional supports and referrals are offered as needed with the transition back to campus.

Periodic messages are sent to graduate students acknowledging the challenges they face(d) during COVID-19 and the steps UBC and G+PS are taking to support them. Fifteen pre-arrival webinars are

scheduled for students starting their programs in September 2021 on the following topics: immigration and medical insurance for international students, graduate students with families, living in Vancouver, budgeting and finances in grad school, residence colleges (SJC & Green), and a series of graduate student-led Ambassador Welcome sessions (grad school and COVID-19, life as a graduate student in Vancouver, tips for staying on budget while enjoying social/physical activities, establishing a good support network, work/life balance and during Covid times, developing a good relationship with your supervisor).

Orientations with a focus on returning to campus in the continuing Covid context

For Orientation programming, we are offering Welcome events for international for both international and domestic students on Sept 2nd. These will continue to be online to allow for greater accessibility for all students. See the resources [page](#).

Continually updated FAQs on returning to campus on our website

G+PS maintains comprehensive FAQs for [graduate students](#) and [Postdocs](#); as part of the [graduate student online community](#), G+PS monitors and responds to concerns raised by graduate students in the discussion boards.