

MEMO

To: SJU Community

From: Peter Meehan, President and Vice Chancellor
Carol Ann MacGregor, Vice President Academic and Dean
Mike Gourlay, Executive Director, Finance and Administration

Date: October 1, 2021

Subject: October Update – Campus Response Team

October is here and Reading Week is just around the corner! The start of term has been hectic as online and 12 in person classes began; residence welcomed 248 students; Student Affairs staff returned to in person service; our library reopened on Mondays/Wednesdays/Thursdays; our Lectures in Catholic Experience 2021-22 series launched again online; and a number of you returned to working in your campus offices. Thank you! We commend all Faculty, CAS, and Staff for a successful start to the fall term.

We recognize how difficult this past year has been for everyone and appreciate the efforts you continue to make to support our mission. While it is starting to feel more “normal” on campus, we all must remain vigilant with safety measures in place to achieve our goal of resuming more on campus activities, and to having all employees working at least part-time from their campus office by November. By continuing to follow the check-in process, and our masking and physical distancing protocols, you are helping us to get closer to our goal of a full and stable return to campus for all employees by January 2022.

St. Jerome’s is aligned with the University of Waterloo regarding implementation of the [vaccination requirement](#). Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their [St. Jerome’s University proof of vaccination](#): a key part of the return to campus process. Our Director, Human Resources, Michelle Watson has contacted all employees who have requested an exemption to the vaccine requirement in this form, and has provided them with additional instructions and forms to complete in order to process their request.

Anyone with accommodations, who is not fully vaccinated, or who has not submitted proof of vaccination proof by the October 17th deadline must test negative on a rapid antigen test, no more than 72 hours before coming on campus. Any SJU employee who is completing rapid antigen testing in order to be on campus, has been provided with a secure link to upload test results twice weekly to a site monitored by Michelle. Personal information will remain confidential and will only be shared with health and safety staff as required to protect our community. Michelle continues to work with the senior leadership team to develop processes for the management of employees that do not provide proof of vaccination, and that do not have accommodations.

The pandemic remains an ever-changing environment. To help keep everyone current, our [FAQ document](#) is updated with new information as it becomes available. The October 1, 2021 edition is now available on the STAFF AND FACULTY COVID-19 Information page of our website. The [University of Waterloo’s Frequently Asked Questions](#) website page also remains a useful resource.

Our RT system continues to offer a feedback mechanism for SJU Faculty, CAS, and Staff. While we encourage you to speak directly with your manager, we also hope you will use this tool to connect with members of the Campus Response Team to share your feedback or compliance concern.

There has been little opportunity to take pause over the past year and a half. We encourage you to use the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend to find rest and re-energize. Thank you again for your commitment to St. Jerome's University and all that you are doing to support our gradual return to "normal" campus operations.