

A photograph of a modern university building with a curved glass facade and a brick wall. The sun is shining brightly, creating a lens flare effect. A person is visible in the foreground, looking at a phone.

York University Continuity of Education Plan

September 2022

YORK 

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The Ministry of Colleges and Universities' (MCU) guidance encourages all publicly assisted colleges and universities to publish Continuity of Education Plans (CEPs). These CEPs are to include:

1. Information about protocols (i.e., health and safety) in the event of an emergency.
2. Information on continuity of education in the event of a disruption to in-person teaching and learning.

To best support students, faculty and staff, York's CEP captures in one document the supports, procedures, protocols and communication guiding current operations and the planned and established measures for the continuity of teaching and learning in the event of an emergency.

These plans align with the current guidance issued by the MCU, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH), the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD), and Toronto Public Health (TPH). The requirements, including city bylaws and provincial directives are reviewed regularly and the CEPs will be updated as necessary to reflect current guidance, recommendations, directives and decisions.

Health and Safety Protocols

We have learned much over the course of the pandemic, including the nature of the virus, its variants, transmissibility, period of communicability and potential to cause severe illness. Individuals are responsible for implementing and following recommended public health measures to protect themselves and others and help limit spread of the virus. Personal responsibility includes being fully vaccinated within eligibility conditions; wearing a tight-fitting mask covering nose mouth and chin, especially when indoors and physical distancing from others cannot be maintained; frequently washing/sanitizing hands, covering mouth and nose if coughing/sneezing and staying home when ill. Adopting such practices consistently will enable us to continue activities, including studying and working at York University.

Change is part of the nature of the virus and the pandemic. Based on current recommendations of public health authorities, and as has been demonstrated since summer 2021, York University is able to provide its campus operations in person, including teaching, research labs, studio spaces, residences and administrative offices. In doing so, York *recommends strongly* to everyone the consistent application of public health practices to create a community of care; protecting one's own health and that of others.

In response to major COVID infection outbreaks and if public health conditions deteriorate to the point where public health officials require that in-person gatherings be paused, then the University will determine if and/or what changes are necessary. As the public health situation improves, campus operations will return. Any shift, campus-wide will be made on the basis of public health directive as an emergency and time-limited response. Decisions related to campus status will be based on recommendations from the University's COVID Steering Committee (CSC). CSC is informed by a broad base of advisory groups representing each of the academic, operational and employment functions of the university. Health Coordination Table (HCT) is informed by a broad range of public health and medical professionals. In coordination, both groups review and make recommendations based on (but not limited to):

- Public health and government (federal, provincial, municipal) guidance and direction
 - Local epidemiological data and trends
 - Operational capacity and requirements.
- York University's community of care measures:
 - **Vaccination policy:** Full vaccination, for community members and visitors to York's campuses. Proof of vaccination should be uploaded via [YU Screen](#). While York's vaccine mandate is currently paused and is functioning as a recommendation, this policy may become mandatory as necessitated by public health conditions.
 - **Vaccination clinics:** York University partners with Ministry of Health and public health units periodically over the course of the year to offer vaccinations to the York community at the Keele, Glendon and Markham campuses. Dates and times will be announced in Y-File, on the Better Together website and through York social media.
 - **Masks:** N95, KN95 and 3- and 4-ply masks that fit tightly to the face are strongly recommended in all enclosed spaces, especially where physical distancing cannot be maintained. [Vending machines](#) containing 3-ply disposable procedural masks and N95 masks

are located on both campuses to make masks easily accessible to community members for a nominal fee to support recycling.

- **[On-campus COVID-19 rapid-test kits](#)**: Test kits for self-testing and home use are available to the York community on both Keele and Glendon campuses for students, faculty and staff.
- **[Hospital-grade air filtration](#)**: Air filtration systems run 24/7 to ensure air flow in York's buildings. Staff perform regular preventative maintenance on all air circulation systems, including the frequent replacement of filters. Centralized ventilation at the University currently meets or exceeds the standards set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.
- **Physical distancing**: COVID-19 is an airborne virus. Community members are encouraged to be highly conscious of everyone's personal space, and where possible, maintain two metres of distance. Where not possible, individuals are encouraged to wear a face mask.
- **[YU Screen](#)**: An online tool is available to all York University community members and guests to enable self-screening for individuals who are COVID-19 positive, feeling ill, experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or concerned about COVID-19 exposure. YU Screen should be completed prior to attending campus, particularly if experiencing symptoms, to receive support from case and contact management team for students and from Employee Well-Being for faculty and staff. The tool is also used to upload proof of vaccination.
- **[Case management](#)**: Is offered through the University, following the latest guidelines from Toronto Public Health, Ministry of Health, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD).

The **[Better Together](#)** website is the first-stop resource for COVID-19 information at York University, detailing York University's measures and providing information regarding health and safety and tips to protect your health and that of others. The website will also direct specific audiences to information pertinent to operational areas.

APPENDIX A

York University Academic Operations in the Current Context of Public Health	
Vaccination full series of shots, including boosters when eligible	Strongly Recommended
YU Screen upload vaccination status; self-screening questionnaire	Strongly Recommended
Face Masks N/KN95, 3 or 4-ply bonded or medical mask, fit tightly over nose, mouth, and chin, with no air gaps. Worn in all areas where 2m physical distancing cannot be maintained	Strongly Recommended
General Teaching	In-person/on-campus and remote. No instructional cap. No temporal gap in schedule
Exams/Assessments	Mainly in-person/on-campus
Facilities	No restrictions to access to or closure of campus facilities beyond daily screening requirement and applicable public health regulations including density limits

Staff/Faculty Presence on Campus	No restrictions to in-person or on-campus presence for faculty. Use of YU Screen strongly recommended
On-campus Research	Research permitted with approved ethics, health & safety plans, and in keeping with all applicable public health regulations
Research with Human Participants (On/Off-Campus)	In-person research with human participants with approved ethics and health & safety plans may resume
Libraries	Full range of Library services and resources available at Keele and Glendon campuses, following public health guidance as required
Events and Gatherings	Only where permitted for staffed and unstaffed facilities within building capacity limits if applicable
Food Services	Indoor and outdoor dining permitted
Campus Density & Building Capacity	Regular capacity limits