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Government of

*Department of Health & Wellness*



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**To: PEI Post-Secondary Education**  
**From: Chief Public Health Office**  
**CC: Mark DeMone, Teresa Hennebery, Neil Stewart**  
**Date: August 5, 2021**  
**Subject: Update: Return to In-Room Learning for PEI Post-Secondary Education (Fall 2021)**

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The following is an update to our June 18, 2021 memo regarding COVID-19 public health measures for post-secondary education (PSE) in-room learning in the fall 2021.

Over the last several weeks, PEI has continued to progress in implementing Moving Forward: a stepwise approach to easing COVID-19 travel and public health measures. The plan is based on achieving PEI vaccination targets and retaining a low level of disease transmission.

Vaccination with two doses of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine continues to be an essential layer of protection against moderate to severe COVID-19 disease. High vaccination rates will be critical to protect students, faculty, and staff and prevent any potential 4<sup>th</sup> wave of COVID-19. We anticipate that by mid to late August at least 80% of eligible Island residents will have received 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

If this progress can be maintained and vaccination targets reached, we now expect the following public health measures for in-room learning this fall:

- Isolation and testing requirements for students, faculty, and staff traveling to PEI based on latest Chief Public Health Office travel guidance.
- Closed spaces such as classrooms continue to represent a higher risk for COVID-19 transmission and vaccination reduces this risk. We anticipate working with PSE to ensure high rates of COVID-19 vaccination for on-campus students, faculty, and staff via education campaigns and vaccination clinics on campus.
- For students, faculty, and staff, physical distancing of 6 feet and masking will *not be* required in classroom settings. There will no longer be classroom capacity limits set by the Chief Public Health Office. While masks are not mandatory in closed indoor spaces in PEI, they are recommended especially for people who are not fully immunized or are immune

compromised.

- Other general public health measures should be maintained in accordance with the ongoing guidance from the Chief Public Health Office (e.g. staying home when sick, covering nose and mouth with tissue or bent elbow when sneezing/coughing, washing hands, cleaning and disinfection, etc.). Transmission risk in indoor settings can be further reduced by measures such as improved ventilation.
- Operational plans with special attention to in-room learning should continue to be updated and approved by the PEI Chief Public Health Office.

PEI's COVID-19 response continues to be dynamic as we respond to emerging epidemiology and evidence. As such, this guidance may be modified in the weeks ahead. We will continue to work with PSE to provide the most up to date information and recommendations.

Thank you for your support of PEI's COVID-19 response. As we head towards the fall 2021, we look forward to working with you to ensure a safe post-secondary learning environment for students, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Heather Morrison  
Chief Public Health Officer

Dr. David Sabapathy  
Deputy Chief Public Health Officer