

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, University of Toronto Scarborough
Cc: Deans, Chairs & Directors, University of Toronto Scarborough
Deans, Chairs & Directors' Assistants
Departmental Coordinators & Assistants
Marg Lacy, Senior Manager, Academic Advising & Career Support Services

From: Professor Katherine R. Larson, Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs
Professor David Zweig, Interim Vice-Dean Recruitment, Enrolment & Student Success

Date: 24 August 2022
Re: **Fall Term Updates**
Note: For distribution broadly

Dear colleagues,

As we look ahead to the start of the Fall term, we are writing with some updates that will be important for your course planning. Please ensure this information is also circulated to course instructors, sessional lecturers, and teaching assistants.

- 1. Masks on Campus:** While the mask mandate has been paused as of 1 July 2022, the use of medical masks continues to be **strongly encouraged** at U of T Scarborough in indoor settings where physical distancing is not possible. We ask everyone to respect each other's decisions, comfort levels, and health needs. Faculty may strongly encourage and request that students wear masks in their classes and may outline this expectation for their courses, both on the first day of class and in syllabi. However, **faculty may not require students to wear masks while the mandate is paused**. Please also be aware that some students are not able to wear masks for disability-related reasons. The University will continue to monitor public health conditions to adjust its response as needed. Masks are available at all building entrances at U of T Scarborough and in all classrooms. If you notice that masks need to be replenished in a classroom you are teaching in, please contact [Facilities Management](#).
- 2. Absence Self-Declaration Form:** The student [absence self-declaration form](#) that has been in use throughout the pandemic will be continuing in Fall 2022. Students should be directed to the self-declaration form on ACORN if they have to miss class, and faculty should not request additional verification of illness or medical documentation. For exams, students should [submit a petition](#) in addition to the self-declaration form.
- 3. Self-Isolation Guidelines:** The Environmental Health & Safety Office has prepared a [flowchart](#) to assist students, faculty, and staff in determining when they need to self-isolate as a result of exposure to COVID-19. Please take note as well of the following guidance for students, faculty, and staff:



- a. [Procedures in the Event of a Confirmed/Symptomatic Case or Exposure to COVID-19](#)
- b. [If You Are Symptomatic or Test Positive for COVID-19](#)

4. **Student Study Visas:** Some of our incoming international students are experiencing delays in obtaining their student study visas. However, these students will still be able to access course materials via Quercus. As such, for the first two weeks of classes, **through Monday, 19 September**, we ask that faculty be prepared to provide access to course materials for international students who are delayed in coming to campus. Students who do not receive study permits and cannot arrive on campus by 19 September should contact utsc.offer@utoronto.ca to inquire about next steps and possible options for deferring to a future session. As you are finalizing your syllabi, please refer to the [universal design for learning](#) and [course resiliency](#) principles and best practices to help all of our students succeed and continue their studies during the term.

With nearly 100% of our classes returning to in-person instruction this Fall we are preparing to welcome an exceptionally large cohort of students and colleagues who will be new to the campus, even if they began their time at U of T Scarborough in 2020 or 2021. Faculty and librarians who are returning to campus this Fall will play a crucial role in helping to support and welcome new students and colleagues. The slate of [orientation activities](#) directed toward first-year students is being augmented this Fall by a series of orientation and social events for current students to allow them opportunities to interact and engage. Please watch for AskMe Ambassadors who will be helping to orient those who are new to campus in the early weeks of the term.

For further resources, please refer to the [Faculty Quick Links](#) page on the Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean's website.

We hope that the summer has been restorative and look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Kind regards,

Katherine R. Larson
Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning &
Undergraduate Programs

David Zweig
Interim Vice-Dean Recruitment, Enrolment &
Student Success