

December 1st, 2021

Professor Santa Ono
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of British Columbia

sent via e-mail presidents.office@ubc.ca

Dear Professor Ono,

Re: COVID-19 Monitoring and Measures at the University of British Columbia - Okanagan Campus

First of all, I would like to thank you and the students, faculty and the administration at UBC Okanagan Campus for the leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to those actions, UBCO has successfully implemented the BC COVID-19 Return-to-Campus guidelines to address COVID-19 risk in all aspects of university operations.

I am pleased to let you know that cases amongst staff and students at post-secondary institutions including UBCO have remained extremely low, particularly in the context of Interior Health's epidemiology. From the beginning of September 2021 until December 1st, 2021 there were 11,810 cases reported within the Interior Health region. During this same period, there were a total of 181 post-secondary students, faculty and staff cases (1.5% of IHs cases within the same time period), including 26 post-secondary students, faculty and staff cases at UBCO (0.2% of IH cases within the same period). Please note that this does not necessarily mean that the cases acquired in school setting nor does it mean they transmitted it within a school setting. In fact, we have not identified any clusters of COVID-19 disease linked to UBCO.

Regarding vaccination, it is my understanding that verification of reported vaccination status is underway, and the process appears to have validated the very high reported uptake of vaccination.

Following evaluation of surveillance and vaccination data, and in consultation with the BC Centre for Disease Control, we would advise UBCO leaders that on-going mandatory rapid tests for unvaccinated personnel, and related employment/academic sanctions, are not required for COVID-19 control in the campus community. Interior Health will continue to closely monitor the epidemiology of COVID-19 at UBCO and remains committed to working closely with universities and colleges in the region.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Silvina Mema, MD MSc FRCPC
Medical Health Officer
SM/sz

We recognize and acknowledge that we are collectively gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the seven Interior Region First Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate, and work together. This region is also home to 15 Chartered Métis Communities. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Interior.