COVID-19 safety measures will remain in place

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TO: All students and employees **FROM:** David Agnew, President

RE: COVID-19 safety measures will remain in place

At Seneca, we continue to put the health and safety of our community first. That has been our approach since the beginning of the pandemic, and it will remain our approach as we transition out of the pandemic.

Today, I'm writing to confirm that Seneca's vaccination policy and safety protocols – including the requirement to wear masks indoors on our campuses – will remain in place until the end of the winter term.

Many public health and scientific experts outside of government have expressed concerns that the COVID-19 virus is still circulating too widely in our communities for an abrupt end to safety protocols. We agree.

For now, masks will continue to be required at Seneca to add an extra layer of protection to those on campus, who must all be fully vaccinated.

As always, vaccinations remain the best weapon to protect you against serious illness. Booster shots make a big difference in keeping you out of hospital and out of an ICU.

We will be letting you know soon what protocols will remain in place for the May term and beyond.

It is worth noting that two years ago yesterday, on March 20, 2020, I sent a message to the entire Seneca community announcing we were closing all of our campuses and going fully virtual because of the widening pandemic. It would be four months before some students were allowed back on campus to complete their labs.

So much has changed in the past two years. But one thing that will never change is my appreciation to all of you – students and employees alike – for your patience, hard work and understanding as we navigate through these challenging, and sometimes very difficult,

times.

Creativity, innovation, persistence, resilience – all these words and more come to mind.

Thank you.

Seneca is emerging from the pandemic stronger than ever. We have embraced equity, sustainability and the more virtual as the pillars of our transformation. We could not have done it, nor can we do it, without you.

But the pandemic is not over, and COVID-19 has not gone away. Billions of people around the world need vaccines. Some countries are experiencing terrible outbreaks.

So please, stay safe. At Seneca, science, and common sense, will continue to guide us.

Visit our COVID-19 site for more information.

Please direct questions to health@senecacollege.ca.

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