

## **Sault College Covid 19 Continuity Plan**

### **Preamble:**

As the College moves towards a return to full operations from the COVID-19 shutdown, it is necessary that the health and safety precautions put into place by the Algoma Public Health Unit and provincial agencies such as the Ministry of Labour are followed and enforced to reduce the risk of additional waves or outbreaks of COVID-19 and therefore promote the health and safety of our students, employees and contractors who attend our sites.

Consistent with the mandate of the public colleges, Sault College's effort will focus on assisting with support of our local area, our healthcare sector and the region's early economic recovery.

It is prudent that the College adopt a graduated relaxation of restrictions so that we may closely monitor the situation for any increase indicative of surging cases. In this way we will best serve our students, staff and community. This outline promotes proactive reactivity to circumstances on the ground. We will be flexible and adapt to changing conditions via the following high level operational outline which is indicative of how Sault College will manage and adapt to the measured opening of our college campuses in a safe manner, at all times compliant with the requirement of our local public health authorities.

In order to protect and support students, faculty and staff, Sault College has developed plans and established measures for the continuity of teaching and learning in the event of an emergency or outbreak of Covid 19.

In spite of all possible planning, it is recognized that there may be unforeseen interruption in order to preserve the safety and security of our college community. In such circumstances, communications will be broadly disseminated.

These plans and policies are attached hereto as appendices and will be invoked as is appropriate in the unique circumstances of each emergency or outbreak to achieve a sound and effective response to each applicable event.

### **General measures:**

The following measures will remain in place so long as it is reasonably advisable to do so.

#### **COVID –19 Awareness**

Signage will be posted on proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and physical distancing throughout the facility. How this is applied will vary depending on the facility and any regional or locally specific information.

The College will clarify expectations for staff, students, visitors and external service providers/contractors prior to returning to campus using various communication channels. The College will provide online orientation to prepare students, faculty and staff for the return to campus. The orientation will address the expectations of students and employees as well as outline the college health and safety protocols.

### **Joint Health and Safety**

Sault College will continue work with the Joint Health and Safety Committee to review and outline plans for the safe opening and operation of their campuses. The committee will consider direction provided by the local public health authority as well as guidelines from provincial and federal governments.

### **Pre-Screening**

Prior to attending campus, all individuals will be required to complete a COVID-19 self-assessment. External service providers/contractors will also be asked to complete the self-assessment.

Signage and other means of communication will be used to advise College community members who are either symptomatic and/or have been advised by Public Health to self-isolate, that they should remain home and not enter the premises. Posting information on COVID-19 symptoms will help to enable self-monitoring behaviours and reinforce passive screening. The College will work with local public health authorities to implement appropriate screening measures on campus throughout the staged re-opening.

### **Vaccination Condition**

In accordance with Ministry guidelines and requirements, as a condition of access to campus all individuals seeking to enter college facilities must be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption. The college's vaccination policy is attached hereto.

### **Campus Community Tracking**

If an employee or student tests positive for COVID-19, the Algoma Public Health Unit may ask the College to provide information on where they worked/studied as well as the contact information of any other member of the campus community who may have been exposed. The College will work with Algoma Public Health as required to provide relevant information to assist with case management tracking.

### **Cleaning Protocols**

Increased cleaning and disinfection protocols will be implemented across all college locations as per direction provided by local public health authorities. Existing guidelines from provincial and federal governments should be adhered to and additional measures could be considered.

## **Mental Health**

It is important to recognize that students, faculty, staff and visitors may need support because of the anxiety and uncertainty created by COVID-19.

The College has provided a list of resources (Appendix \_\_\_\_\_) to assist staff and students.

## **Physical Distancing –**

Physical Distancing can be an advisable component of dealing with virus risk. The college will adhere to guidelines regarding on campus activities from government and health officials.

These may result in alterations to how workspaces are set up, how activity would normally occur, or how College community members would normally interact and go about business. Situations where interfacing among staff and students is common will require special considerations for mutual protection. Where recommended distancing cannot be maintained in learning spaces such as labs, other appropriate safety measures will be taken, including the utilization of PPE.

In instances where physical distancing is not feasible or required, Sault College will work with local public health authorities to develop alternative forms of protection.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The College will ensure they have all the necessary supplies as required by their operational plan, which could include PPE. The requirements for PPE may vary based on advice from local public health authorities.

Students in the healthcare sector may have a higher potential risk of coming into contact with infected persons. Healthcare students and others in placements who interact with patients and other non-college employees, should wear PPE as required by the employer and/or instructor based on the industry standard and public health guidelines.

## **Additional Considerations**

The specific measures outlined in this document are all considered to be additional health and safety measures designed to supplement existing public health and industry guidelines. For each specific program or on-campus activity, additional considerations will need to be reviewed and outlined by area/department/program.

## **Contingency Framework for Contact /Outbreaks**

Sault College has a contact and outbreak policy which will be applied should there be such relative to our campuses.

## **Continuation of Learning Activities**

Sault College takes seriously its responsibilities to provide continuation of learning activities to the extent it is reasonable and safe to do so. For this, reason the college has taken a cautious and phased approach to re-opening and program delivery. For the fall of 2021 multiple options have been made available to students including remote, hybrid, hyflex and in person learning. In so doing, the various options allow the college to scale activities in the event of contact or an outbreak. The attached appendices are supportive of a scalable approach.

## **Attachments**

**The College has the following policies which are treated as living documents and updated as required based on changing conditions and requirements**

1. College Emergency Plan  
[Emergency Plan | Sault College](#)
2. College Pandemic Plan
3. College COVID Contact and Outbreak Plan
4. College COVID Residence Response Plan
5. College Awareness and Access to Campus in a Covid Environment Policy
6. College Social Distancing and Personal Protective Equipment Policy
7. College Environmental Sanitation Policy
8. College Policy re Vaccination Varsity Athletics  
[Vaccination In Varsity Athletics Policy | Sault College](#)
9. Vaccination Policy  
[Vaccination Policy | Sault College](#)
10. Sault College Vaccination Medical Exemption Form
11. Sault College Vaccination Religious Grounds Exemption Form

Inquiries regarding policy details may be directed to [rachel.macdonald@saultcollege.ca](mailto:rachel.macdonald@saultcollege.ca)

## Resources for Mental Health Support :

**Sault College Counselling:** appointment bookings email [studentsupport@saultcollege.ca](mailto:studentsupport@saultcollege.ca)

**Good2Talk:** Ontario's 24/7 helpline for postsecondary students. Call 1-866-925-5454 or text GOOD2TALKON to 686868.

**I.M. Well:** 24/7 Student support in 170 different languages – download app for free - <http://www.imwell.ca/>

**guard.me: 24/7** keep.meSAFE Student Support Program for International students - <https://www.guard.me/keepmesafe.php>

**Naseeha Youth Helpline:** confidential helpline for young Muslims to receive immediate, anonymous, and confidential support. Call 1-866-627-3342

## General COVID Resources

<http://www.algomapublichealth.com/>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/flu-influenza/health-professionals.html>