



# COMMUNICATION MEMO

Department of People and Culture

**2021-11-23**

**MEMO: Important Sault Ste. Marie Community COVID-19 Update**

**TO:** All SSM Students, Staff and Faculty

**FROM:** Brianne Pringle, Director People and Culture

As the case counts in Sault Ste. Marie (and across the Province) have risen recently, it is now more important than ever that we continue to stand by our commitment of **“Thunderbirds protecting Thunderbirds - Thunderbird protecting community”**.

Algoma Public Health (APH) is asking that we all do our part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Over the last few weeks, APH has been asking all members of the Sault Ste. Marie community to;

- stay home if you are feeling unwell,
- avoid in-person gatherings where social distancing cannot be ensured and masks may not be worn by all in attendance,
- get vaccinated (for those who have not already done so).

We were notified by APH of a low exposure positive case on our SSM campus yesterday. However, because the individual was fully vaccinated, masked, followed our screening policy and remained physically distant to individuals on campus, APH did not identify any close contacts on our campus. What this means, and APH confirmed, is that **what we are doing within our campus is working**.

We are pleased to announce that those who are required to be on campus are **fully in compliance with our vaccine policy**. This community effort to keep each other safe exemplifies the meaning of the Thunderbird - a symbol that represents power, protection, and strength.

Another recent advancement announced by the provincial government is the approval for children aged 5-11 to be vaccinated. Related details are [posted](#) on the APH website.

**Please note:** At this time, the Delivery mode for Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 remains as rostered by the Office of the Registrar, which includes in-person and on-campus instruction for designated courses.

**Further details on how we can continue to keep each other and our community safe are outlined below:**

As a reminder, employees and students are required to screen daily and, **if you are feeling unwell and exhibiting COVID-19 [symptoms](#), please stay home and contact APH for testing.**

**Should you be identified (student or employee) as a close contact or have a positive test, do not come to campus and immediately notify [covid@algonau.ca](mailto:covid@algonau.ca) for next steps and support.**

Wearing masks in all public spaces, remaining physically distant as much as possible and washing/sanitizing your hands frequently will reduce the spread of the virus.

We thank you for your continued adherence to all measures currently in place. Our collective efforts will continue to make a difference.

Should you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19, specific to Algoma University, please email [covid@algonau.ca](mailto:covid@algonau.ca)

For ongoing updates, please visit Algoma U's dedicated [COVID-19 page](#).

**Thunderbirds protecting Thunderbirds - Thunderbirds protecting Community**