



COMMUNICATION MEMO

President's Office

2021-12-17

MEMO: Important Update - Winter Semester Course Delivery

TO: All Students, Staff and Faculty

FROM: Asima Vezina, President and Vice- Chancellor

After significant discussion with government and public health officials regarding the Omicron variant, I am writing to advise all students and employees of the following:

All classes will begin virtually on January 10, 2022. We will transition back to originally planned delivery mode for January 31, 2022. Specific details regarding course access and related logistics will be shared by the Dean's Office prior to the start of the term.

The reason for this change is to provide ample opportunity for people to obtain their booster prior to returning to campus. The Ontario government is rapidly accelerating its booster dose rollout by expanding eligibility to all individuals 18 and over. In addition, the interval for booster eligibility has been shortened to three months following the date of an individual's second dose. See full details [here](#).

On the SSM Campus, residence will remain open, and students scheduled to move in can continue to do so. Cafeteria services will re-open as planned on January 4th, 2022 and Tim Hortons will reopen with the start of classes.

We expect further information in the coming days and ask that you regularly monitor and thoroughly review all communications carefully as we respond to any further government and health guidance and directives.

Please note that the Faculty will be receiving a more detailed message from the Office of the VPAR and Dean early next week.

Finally, while the University will not be closed, employees should speak to their management officers for further guidance on working from home January 4, 2022 through to January 30, 2022. During this time all gatherings will be cancelled and we ask that no in-person meetings take place.

Algoma University will continue to be vigilant by taking concrete steps in support of public health measures, including:

- Continuing to enforce strong vaccination mandates for anyone visiting campus or undertaking in-person university- related activities as reinforced through our current [vaccine policy](#);
- Continuing to enforce screening at all entry points on campus;
- Adhering to masking requirements in all public spaces on campus, including in meeting rooms and classrooms;
- Limiting all non-essential contacts wherever possible; and
- Following other public health measures, such as capacity limits and physical distancing for non-instructional spaces (e.g., sporting events and cafeteria).

Thanks for your continued support of our efforts to help limit the spread of the virus.