



COMMUNICATION MEMO

Office of the President

2022-01-21

MEMO: Winter Semester Return to Campus Feb. 7, 2022

TO: All Students, Staff, Faculty, Board, SKG

FROM: Asima Vezina, President and Vice-Chancellor

I hope that you were able to enjoy restful holidays and that your winter semester is off to a good start under the circumstances. It is my hope that as we move into this new year, we will see a significant decrease in the disruptions brought about by the ongoing pandemic and movement towards some sense of normalcy.

As you know, prior to the holidays, the Omicron variant was accelerating at an unprecedented rate. Under the advisement of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Algoma University, along with all other Universities in Ontario, made the decision to delay the return to campus and begin the winter term remotely. This was to provide an opportunity for public health to implement an aggressive booster vaccination campaign and to support government and health care in reducing the impact on our hospital and health care system. I am grateful to all of you for your continued resilience as together we continue to focus on keeping each other and the community safe.

After careful review and consideration, including consultation and guidance from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Council of Universities, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and in alignment with the broader University sector, I am writing to inform you that Algoma University will be re-opening our campuses to in-person learning on Monday, February 7, 2022.

Under the continued guidance of public health, and with the support of the AU *Covid Task Force* we look forward to welcoming our community back to campus to support the continuation of previously planned on-campus course delivery.

More specific memos from the COVID-19 Task Force and the Office of the Dean will be forthcoming early next week to provide additional information to support the transition back to campus. Following these memos, should you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19, specific to Algoma University, please email covid@algonau.ca or visit Algoma U's dedicated [COVID-19 page](#) for regular updates.

In closing, let me thank you again for your continued support through this unprecedented period, a time that we recognize has required considerable inner strength and flexibility.