

MEMO

To: SJU Community

From: Peter Meehan, President and Vice Chancellor
Carol Ann MacGregor, Vice President Academic and Dean
Mike Gourlay, Executive Director, Finance and Administration

Date: February 1, 2022

Subject: Monthly Update - Return to In-Person Learning and Work

We are less than a week away from our Monday, February 7th, return to on campus in-person experiences. For some of you that may be exciting, but for others we recognize that you may remain apprehensive. Like all elements of the pandemic, information, and rules and protocols are in an ever-changing flow. What remains consistent is our interest in ensuring that safety on campus is optimized throughout each step of this process and that we are following the guidance provided by Public Health, the Government of Ontario, and the University of Waterloo. We want to reassure you that we are sharing new information with you as quickly as we can. We continue to update our FAQ summary to ensure that you have the most recent updates that apply to our university operations.

If you review the [FAQ summary](#) provided on our COVID-19 website pages, you will see information that will help you to transition to the return to campus with confidence that we have taken the necessary steps to ensure our campus is safe. Included in this summary are the details of **ventilation upgrades** on SJU campus to increase fresh air intake, the addition of **MERV13 filters** in our buildings, and **air quality tests** that were taken across campus to ensure air flow. We have secured a supply of **KN95 masks** providing high-filtration protection and distributed a 'starter' amount to all employees in their mailbox. While the FAQ document may answer many of the questions that are upper most in your mind, you may have others. Please let us know how we can help. We welcome your input ensuring that we are supporting you with your transition back to being on campus in a positive way.

The University of Waterloo leadership released a memo yesterday that also addresses other concerns you may have, including the availability of rapid antigen tests. Please [read the latest updates](#) on their website to keep current. We also encourage you to attend the [University of Waterloo's President's Forum](#) on **Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.** This forum will feature experts and administrators from across UWaterloo's campus sharing information about the return to in-person experiences.

St. Jerome's University will host two town halls this week. An in-person teaching forum will take place for our **academic staff** on [Thursday, February 3, 2022, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.](#) (Meeting ID: 916 9522 7108, Passcode: 330800), followed by a town hall open to **all employees** on [Friday, February 4, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.](#) We hope that you will join us and use this opportunity to ask questions that will help ease your transition back to campus.

We remain grateful for your support. Your commitment to our students, our mission, and the return to safe and engaging in-person experiences is greatly valued. Thank you for helping us to get through the next chapter in this process successfully.