

**To:** Dalhousie deans, unit leaders and research PIs

**From:** Frank Harvey, Provost and Vice-President Academic (Acting)  
Alice Aiken, Vice-President Research & Innovation  
Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President Finance and Administration

**Date:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021

**Re:** **Updated guidance on current restrictions**

We are at a critical moment in our collective effort to fight the spread of COVID-19. All of us must do our part to support the success of Nova Scotia's new restrictions, in place for at least the next two weeks, as we work to bring these current outbreaks under control.

With the spring term about to start, **we have great confidence in the robust safety protocols that have been put in place to support necessary in-person classes and ongoing research and campus operations.** These protocols, and your strong commitment to them, have allowed us to continue these vital activities throughout the pandemic.

With that said, we want to make a few important points with respect to the next couple of weeks:

- Everyone should be adhering to the spirit of the current restrictions: **any activities that can happen virtually or remotely should do so.** For activities that absolutely need to continue on-campus — instruction, research, essential operations, etc. — adherence to safety protocols is more important than ever and should be emphasized to faculty, staff and students *in the strongest possible terms.*
- We are updating our directive on masks to require that **masks be worn at all times, unless unsafe or impractical — even if a six-foot distance can be maintained.** The increased infectiousness of variant COVID strains means we can no longer rely simply on physical distancing in indoor spaces. Masks can be removed only when an individual is working in a space entirely by themselves or while eating/drinking — even then, these should be kept to a minimum (or, in the case of eating/drinking, done outside if practical).
- **Please encourage and support your team members** to get tested (asymptomatic and symptomatic testing); to get vaccinated if they are eligible; and to volunteer where they are able to. Please also continue to be as accommodating as possible to parents within our community, in line with [yesterday's message from AVP HR Jasmine Walsh.](#)

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of our people. Your adherence to both Public Health and university safety measures over the past year has not only kept our community safe but has also helped us continue our vital work as a university. If we continue to stay committed to these measures, and to support one another, we'll make it through these trying weeks and return to a steadier path out of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Frank Harvey  
Provost and Vice-President Academic (Acting)

Alice Aiken  
Vice-President Research & Innovation

Gitta Kulczycki  
Vice-President Finance and Administration