

## Background and Scope

Lakehead University's Continuity of Education Plan has been established in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities' July 16, 2021 memo, *Fall 2021 Planning for the Postsecondary Education Sector* and the August 31, 2021 release of the *Postsecondary Education Health Measures Framework for Fall 2021*.

The Plan includes:

- Information about health and safety protocols
- Information on continuity of education in the event of a disruption to in-person teaching and learning
- Links to additional resources

## SECTION I — Health and Safety Protocols

Lakehead University has taken many steps to plan and implement strategies to face the threat of a disruption to in-person classes and operations on our two campuses.

Lakehead University's Transition Committee has been working since the early days of the pandemic in Spring 2020 and continues to meet regularly to discuss issues, delegate work, and plan ahead. Committee members include internal leaders from across all key departments and both campuses.

Lakehead University continues to work closely with our campuses' respective district health units ([Thunder Bay District Health Unit](#) and [Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit](#)) on various matters, including, but not limited to:

- [Mandatory Vaccination policy](#)
- [Lakehead University Mobile Safety app](#)
- On-campus vaccination
- [On-Campus testing](#)
- Outbreak management planning
- Daily COVID-19 screening requirements and options
- Vaccine passport applications
- [Vaccination Exemptions](#)
- Quarantine procedures (including on-campus Residences)
- Support of contact tracing efforts
- Mass communication protocols
- PPE supplies
- Enhanced cleaning protocols
- Improvements to on campus ventilation systems
- Masking requirements
- On-campus signage
- [COVID-19 FAQs web page](#)

## SECTION II — COVID-19 Prevention and Management

Lakehead University's primary tool to prevent an outbreak is our [Mandatory Vaccination policy](#).

We are committed to promoting the health, safety, and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff against COVID-19. The Policy, therefore, implements key measures to reduce the spread and severity of the virus and its variants under the following principles:

- Full vaccination against COVID-19 be required for all individuals involved in any in-person activities on campus (students, staff, faculty, contractors, and visitors), with the rare exception of those individuals who cannot be vaccinated due to permitted exemptions (medical and other protected grounds under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*). Individuals are to be required to submit proof of vaccination.
- All individuals who are unvaccinated due to permitted exemptions or who are awaiting their second dose be required to adhere to additional health and safety measures, up to and including serial and frequent rapid testing.
- Individuals involved in any in-person activities on campus (students, staff, faculty, contractors, and visitors) should be fully vaccinated as soon as operationally feasible.

Our Mandatory Vaccination Policy ensures that:

- We define the conditions that members of our Lakehead community, and others, are permitted access to Lakehead University Premises.
- Encourage higher vaccination rates among Lakehead community members so as to help keep our communities safe.
- Direct and provide guidance for all persons accessing any Lakehead University owned, operated or controlled facility; and
- We ensure Lakehead University is in compliance with applicable laws

Students, staff, faculty, contractors, and visitors to our campuses have been repeatedly advised (email, signage, direct communication to suppliers and partners) on how they must adhere to the Policy.

Any person accessing any Lakehead University Premises is required to complete a daily COVID-19 screening and obtain a Vaccine Passport. The following instructions have been shared, and continue to be promoted, about the various options available to satisfy these requirements.

**How to complete a daily COVID-19 screening and obtain a Vaccine Passport:**

- Use the [Lakehead University Mobile Safety app](#)
- Use a **web browser from any computer** to submit one's [Vaccine Passport Submission](#) or [Mandatory Daily COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#).
- **For those without access to the Mobile Safety app or a computer:**
  - Daily COVID-19 screenings must be completed by visiting Security Services before proceeding to their destination on campus; and
  - They must have a printed copy of their vaccination status while on campus

Students, faculty, and staff have been instructed on what to do in the event they believe they have COVID symptoms (stay home and get tested) — advise their supervisors/instructors of their absence, and to contact their local Health Unit to receive instructions and a test, if required.

**Lakehead University's Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan** outlines detailed measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses and to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks. A copy of the complete Plan has been shared with Lakehead's Senior Management Team and other supervisors. A copy of the plan may be provided upon request. A simplified version of the Plan, with step-by-step directions on what people are to do in various COVID-related situations, is being developed for our website and will be available publicly.

In the Plan, efforts to prevent the risk of an outbreak include:

- Pivoting to online models of course delivery
- Employees not required to be on campus working remotely
- Moving students in our Residences to single occupancy dwellings/rooms, and implementing special quarantine procedures
- Food services moving to take-out only
- Physical distancing/plexiglass barriers
- Hand hygiene and cough etiquette education and postage of signage as reminders.
- Installation of hand hygiene stations throughout the campus (ABHR greater than 60% alcohol)
- Mandatory use of masks/face coverings & education on how to don and doff safely.
- Signage (directional, distancing, passive screening, mask requirement).
- Enhanced environmental cleaning.

Additional web resources on our website feature **COVID-19 information tailored to the needs of [Students, Staff and Faculty](#)**. Developed in 2020, these information-specific web pages continue to evolve as necessary — with each group’s pages receiving the most relevant information, updates, and resources for them.

All Lakehead students, staff, and faculty are required to complete **COVID-19 training** prior to attending campus in-person:

- Training for Students: [COVID-19 Awareness for Lakehead Students](#) (through a secure, online-login-only portal)
- Training for Employees (Faculty and Staff): [COVID-19 Safe Work](#)

**Individual COVID-19 cases** among members of our University community are managed within a strict set of guidelines developed in conjunction with our [Thunder Bay](#) and [Simcoe-Muskoka](#) District Health Units. Respecting the privacy of individuals is paramount, in addition to recommended means of supporting contact tracing investigators.

Our District Health Units will only contact individuals identified as high risk, and will only contact an organization if there is a risk of spread and exposure within that organization. Each of our campuses’ District Health Units has specific individuals they would reach out to share information about a potential outbreak. Those contact persons are members of Lakehead University’s Executive Team.

**Contact Tracing Protocols** have existed since the early days of the pandemic, and are conducted with direction from our campuses’ District Health Units. Measures to record peoples’ whereabouts on our campuses have included paper sign-in and sign-out sheets to use of our [Lakehead University Mobile Safety app](#).

Should one of our campuses’ District Health Units advise us of the risk of an outbreak on one of our properties, the University would follow the directions of the Health Unit and implement our Outbreak Prevention and Management Plan.

### **SECTION III — Disruption to In-Person Classes and On-Campus Operations**

Should the measures outlined in Section II not be enough to prevent an outbreak on one of our campuses, Lakehead University's Executive Team would work with the District Health Unit of that campus to manage the situation.

If an incident warrants a District Health Unit recommending the cessation of on-campus and in-person classes and operations, the University will take the following steps (as taken in 2020):

- move to online and remote teaching and learning models
- minimize the number of staff on our campuses to essential services only, including Residence and Limited Food Services (for students having to remain on our campus); Services Security; Physical Plant (Groundskeeping; Cleaning Services; Powerplant; etc.)
- Access to properties will be limited, with all buildings' entrances being locked and requiring Security Services personnel to access
- All in-person services would be closed (libraries; cafeterias; bookstores; etc.) and pivot to online and take-out models of functioning
- Only allow absolutely-necessary research operations to continue (using guidelines developed by the Office of Research Services)
- Potential ban on University-related travel plans put in place

In the event of a significant community outbreak on one of our campuses, Lakehead University's Emergency Operations Control Group (EOCG) would assess the situation and make recommendations to the President on how to proceed (with guidance from the local District Health Unit). The EOCG is comprised of senior members of Lakehead University's administration and have been trained in a variety of emergency scenarios that might befall our campuses.

**SECTION IV — Additional Resources**

- [Student Health and Wellness — Social Distancing Tool Kit](#)
- [Lakehead University Employee & Family Assistance Program](#)
- [Thunder Bay District Health Unit](#)
- [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit \(Orillia\)](#)
- [Health Canada's Information Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Government of Canada: Decision-making for mass gatherings during COVID-19 global outbreak](#)
- [Government of Canada: Travel Health Notices \(by country\)](#)
- [Health Canada's COVID-19 App and Daily Symptom Tracker](#)
- [Health Canada's COVID-19 Alert app](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)