



**To all CNIH students and colleagues,**

In the past few weeks there has been a lot of news about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the situation in Canada and here in Ottawa. I want to give you an update of what this means and how it will impact CNIH.

Our students, employees and patient's health are a top priority and we are taking precautionary measures to lessen the currently low public health risk with COVID-19. Health Canada, Public Health Ontario, Ottawa Public Health and the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities continue to monitor this evolving situation. We will be following guidelines issued by these organizations and watching for any developments that could affect our college community. We are also closely monitoring the decisions made by other post-secondary institutions in places where the virus is more prevalent.

As for the potential impact on CNIH, here is what you need to know:

**Classes:** As of now, all classes and activities are proceeding as scheduled. Any decision to suspend face-to-face teaching would be made based on guidance from municipal, provincial and federal public-health agencies, along with information from key stakeholders, such as Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities. If CNIH were ever to suspend face-to-face teaching, it would explore all opportunities to allow our learners to continue their studies.

**Response:** The College will increase the cleaning of common surfaces and the number of sanitizing stations around our campus, particularly in high-traffic areas, such as washrooms, and around touch-points such as door handles and hand rails. A cross-college coordination committee continues to advise on issues and activities related to the coronavirus. Key personnel across multiple departments are hard at work examining the potential impact the virus could have on our campus and developing contingency plans. The CNIH Team is also meeting regularly to discuss priorities related to this situation.

**New/Returning Students, Staff and Clients:** As per Ottawa Public Health recommendations, if you are returning from international travel you should self-monitor. While there may be anxiety surrounding the return of students, staff and clients to campus, it is important that we ensure that our treatment of returning

students and employees coincides with the recommendations of Ottawa Public Health.

**Student/staff/client/visitor with flu-like symptoms will not be permitted to enter the college.** Anyone with overseas travel to the areas affected by the virus, listed on Ministry of Health website, should inform the college and not enter the college until 14 days after return or provide evidence of negative testing. This can be done **via absent email.**

Clients should be pre-screened on the telephone when confirming appointments. Clients that have traveled overseas within the past two weeks, or live with someone that has traveled overseas, or lives with someone with flu symptoms should not be scheduled until 14 days after their return to Canada or when screened by health care provider.

We are also relying on you, our employees and learners, to help us keep our campuses safe. You can do this by washing your hands frequently with soap and water, using hand sanitizer, avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and covering your coughs or sneezes with a tissue.

**Here are some resources you might find useful:**

- Information on [Hand Hygiene](#) and this [Handwashing](#)
- [Public Health Canada Coronavirus Fact Sheet](#)
- [Ottawa Public Health website](#)
- [Government of Canada Travel Advisories](#)
- [Talking to Children about Coronavirus](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

We will keep you informed with any related changes at CNIH that may affect you. As a community, it will take our collective effort to manage this situation and minimize the spread of COVID-19. As this situation evolves, CNIH will keep you informed. The best advice for the moment is to be informed, practice common sense preventative measures and carry on with daily routines.

**James Keslassy, Campus President**