

Continuity of Education Plan (CEP) 2021-2022

The CEP has been developed in response to Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) request to establish transparent and clearly communicated measures for the continuity of teaching and learning in the event of an emergency or outbreak at Ontario Tech University, due to COVID-19.

The plan provides an outline to the following:

1. How to access information about the protocols in the event of an emergency;
2. Information on the continuity of education in the event of a disruption to in-person teaching and learning; and
3. Links to useful resources in the event of an emergency.

Section 1. INFORMATION ABOUT PROTOCOLS IN THE EVENT OF A COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Definition: For the purposes of the CEP, an Emergency is defined as a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak.

Accountability: The University's Pandemic Response Team (PRT) is responsible for making decisions about the appropriate response to COVID-19 related emergencies, based on the advice of public health under Section 22., of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, to ensure a coordinated and centralized response.

Ontario Tech will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and work in collaboration with our partners at Durham Region Health Department (DRHD).

Confirmed COVID-19 exposures or confirmed COVID-19 cases on campus should be reported to the Case Management Team at healthandsafety@ontariotechu.ca or (905) 926-2401. Any individual identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case on campus will be contacted directly by DRHD and/or the Case Management team. Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should follow DRHD's guidance for [assessment and testing](#).

The Case Management team will be the lead in contacting DRHD and advising PRT and senior leadership. The Case Management team will advise the affected unit on next steps as directed by public health.

DRHD will lead contact tracing and provide instruction to individuals with COVID-19 and those exposed to confirmed COVID-19 cases. Members of the university community should continue to attend campus, following all safety precautions, unless directed otherwise by DRHD and/or the Case Management team.

Section 2. INFORMATION ON THE CEP IN THE EVENT OF A DISRUPTION TO IN-PERSON TEACHING AND LEARNING

A disruption to in-person teaching and learning may occur as the result of a COVID-19 outbreak on campus.

In the event of individual COVID-19 cases:

Students with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should use the COVID-19 [assessment tool](#) to determine if they need testing. Students awaiting a negative test result, or who have been instructed to isolate by DRHD and/or the Case Management team, must stay home and follow the [regional](#) and [campus protocols](#).

Instructors with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should use the COVID-19 [assessment tool](#) to determine if they need testing. Instructors awaiting a negative test result, or who have been instructed to isolate by DRHD and/or the Case Management team, must stay home and follow the [regional](#) and [campus protocols](#). Instructors should contact their department head or dean to determine the appropriate approach to ensure course continuity.

Staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should use the COVID-19 [assessment tool](#) to determine if they need testing. Staff awaiting a negative test result, or who have been instructed to isolate by DRHD and/or the Case Management team, must stay home and follow the [regional](#) and [campus protocols](#).

High-risk contacts, as defined by DRHD and/or the Case Management team through their case management process, who are fully vaccinated without symptoms and not instructed to self-isolate by DRHD and/or the Case Management team may continue to attend academic activities or the workplace unless they become symptomatic, at which time they are to remain off campus and follow DRHD protocols.

Section 3. LINKS TO EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Internal:

- [Health and Safety](mailto:healthandsafety@ontariotechu.ca) at healthandsafety@ontariotechu.ca or (905) 926-2401
- [Ontario Tech Continuity Policy Framework](#)
- [Ontario Tech Emergency Preparedness Plan](#)
- [Ontario Tech Safe Return Website](#)
- [Safe Return to Campus FAQ's](#)
- [COVID-19 Health and Safety protocols and requirements](#)
- [Ontario Tech Mandatory Vaccination requirements](#)
- [Ontario Tech Safety Plan](#)
- [Ontario Tech COVI-19 Case Reporting protocol](#)

External:

- [Durham Region Public Health](#) or (905) 668-2020 (press 2)
- [Government of Ontario](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Government of Canada COVID](#) or 1 (833) 784-4397
- [World Health Organization](#)