

Dear ABC College students, faculty, and staff,

On behalf of the ABC President's Cabinet, I sincerely regret having to send you this correspondence. However, for the following reasons, we have decided that it is best that, for the college, all ABC classes will remain fully online through February 18, followed by the College Reading Break, February 21-25. ABC College Chapel will remain online. **Please note that this affects only the College courses. PACE Winter Block 1 courses will remain online through February 8. We will make a decision regarding PACE Winter Block 2 courses, which begin on February 15, early in February.**

We remain hopeful that in-person teaching, learning and community life can resume this semester when circumstances allow. In the meantime, we encourage you to take advantage of the regular opportunities to connect with the ABC community virtually

The sole exceptions to our online teaching and learning will be:

- Field Experience, where in-person service will continue as planned, as long as our host organizations permit in-person service.
- Counselling services provided to the ABC community by Marcia Cameron, unless Marcia or the client prefers to meet virtually.

The reasons for making this decision include:

- Continued increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths due to the highly contagious nature of the Omicron variant;
- Yesterday's update from Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Alberta, indicating that the Province of Alberta expects ongoing increases in Covid stats. "It's going to get worse before it gets better," she said yesterday in a news conference.
- Similar decisions by other institutions of higher learning in Calgary and across Alberta.

What you can do:

- If you are not vaccinated, please get vaccinated;
- If you are vaccinated but have not yet had your booster, please get your booster. Nearly one year of data from around the world indicates that the best way to prevent becoming seriously sick and/or hospitalized with Covid-19 is to be fully vaccinated.
- Limit your person-to-person contacts as much as possible.
- Stay home if you have Covid symptoms and follow the Alberta Government guidelines (found on the Daily Checklist, see next item).
- Use the Alberta Daily Checklist to monitor your symptoms. The Daily Checklist is available here: [The Daily Checklist is available here.](#)
 - If you experience Covid symptoms, have a Covid test, or receive Covid test results (either negative or positive), please fill out the ABC Covid-19 Reporting Form: [the ABC Covid-19 Reporting Form available here.](#)
- If you need to come to campus for any reason, please call in advance and make an appointment.

We will get through this latest wave of the pandemic. Let us pray that this wave peaks soon (remembering that half the cases in an epidemic wave happen after the peak). And let us pray that this is the final wave. I remain grateful for your support and understanding.

in Him,
David