



Our Ref. 119838

September 18, 2020

To: Institution Contacts at Private Training and other EQA designated institutions

To whom it may concern;

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training's letter of August 18, 2020, outlined the process we are undertaking to ensure that when B.C. post-secondary institutions begin to welcome newly arriving international students on study permits, we do so in a way that protects the health and safety of our communities.

At this time, the federal government has determined that [only international students with study permits authorized before March 18, 2020](#), with certain exceptions, are eligible to cross the border. Any future changes to these measures are under the authority of the federal government.

Previous correspondence has identified the [Go-Forward Guidelines](#) for the post-secondary sector, which support the overall direction of the [BC Restart Plan](#). Your institutions have been putting in place [COVID-19 safety plans](#) for your workplaces, and implementing plans to protect and support the health of your students, faculty and staff. As part of your ongoing operations as the pandemic evolves, you continue to monitor B.C. public health advice, [Orders of the Provincial Health Officer](#), and information on safe work protocols provided by [WorkSafeBC](#), as the measures and precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19 may increase in the coming months.

The Ministry's August 18, 2020, letter also shared guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada (attached) that institutions must meet for international students on study permits, with letters of acceptance from Designated Learning Institutions, to travel to Canada to pursue their post-secondary studies. These requirements include that B.C. public health officials validate public health readiness and responsibility for international students on study permits during their period of mandatory quarantine on entry to Canada.

In anticipation of the federal government revising restrictions related to international students on study permits in the future, the Ministry invites institutions to submit their COVID-19 safety plans to the Ministry for review by provincial health officials.

To advance in this process, we request the following:

1. Review the most current health and safety requirements and update your institution's operational and quarantine plans to fully meet the current provincial and federal requirements (attached). Ensure your plans are published on your website.

2. Complete the attached Readiness Assessment and submit it to the Ministry Education Quality Assurance program (EQA@gov.bc.ca). We have developed this template to help you submit the information from your plans for health officials to review in a consistent format, together with your published plans. Include URL links to your plans with your submission.

There is no deadline to submit these plans; submit when you are ready.

The Ministry, through the EQA office, will facilitate the review of institution plans by public health officials. Do not submit your plans to your regional health authority for approval.

Please note: Institutions will be informed if additional information is required once plans are submitted for review. Institutions are solely responsible for the development of their plans.

3. **For those institutions that are currently receiving international students on study permits or plan to in the future, we require weekly reporting of data on those students who travel to Canada and undertake quarantine.**

An Excel template will follow separately to submit your data each week. Please submit your data each Thursday until further notice, with your **first reporting period being the week your plans are submitted to EQA for assessment.**

Please submit your plans, responses to the questionnaire, and weekly data to EQA@gov.bc.ca.

International students are important contributors to our post-secondary education system, and we welcome them to our institutions and in our communities. The post-secondary sector's ongoing leadership to ensure support for international student arrivals is comprehensive and rigorous will build public confidence in our ability to welcome international students in a way that is safe for the communities at our institutions and at large.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact Jamie Edwardson, Executive Director, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (Jamie.Edwardson@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,



Tony Loughran, Executive Lead
Governance, Legislation and Corporate Planning Division

Attachments:

- Public Health Agency of Canada Guidelines
- Template for Submission (Word Document)

pc: Jamie Edwardson, Executive Director
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