



## Economic Development and Training

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Dear Presidents:

Thank you for providing information on your plans regarding international students and federal government requirements. I know that institutions have been significantly engaged in preparing for the arrival of international students. I appreciate the information your institution provided in response to our *Readiness Plans to Welcome International Students* survey on July 24.

The situation is rapidly evolving and I understand there are many questions and uncertainties facing us all. I wanted to reach out to advise that the Manitoba government is seeking confirmation and clarification from the federal government on the requirements and next steps to welcome and support international students to Manitoba.

I would also like to inform you that the Government of Canada recently released *Guidance for Post-secondary Institutions during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. You can review the new guidelines at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/covid-19-guidance-post-secondary-institutions-during-pandemic.html>.

On August 7, 2020, the federal government sent all provinces and territories criteria for post-secondary institutions who have responsibility for international students during their mandatory quarantine on entry to Canada. The criteria is extensive and outlines the federal government's overall requirements; pre-arrival requirements; 14-day quarantine requirements; and post-quarantine requirements – see attached. The federal government requires that provincial and local public health authorities together use these criteria to approve each educational institution.

Your institution might already have a comprehensive readiness plan that covers the federal government's full list of requirements. If so, at your **earliest convenience**, please send your comprehensive plan to my office who will work with Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living to coordinate the approval process. In your email, please note if the plan has already been reviewed by Health, Seniors and Active Living.

The responses from the *Readiness Plans to Welcome International Students* survey highlight three main areas of need which are providing transportation from the initial point of arrival to the place of quarantine, ensuring there is a 14-day mandatory quarantine location and implementing contingency plans to safely house international students in the event of an outbreak. To address the first two needs, the department has contacted central government to secure a vendor list of hotels that will provide spaces for students to quarantine and Wi-Fi so that students can remain connected to your institution.

In terms of contingency plans to safely house international students in the event of an outbreak, Health, Seniors and Active Living has isolation accommodations for those who are unable to isolate safely elsewhere. More information can be found at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/alternative-isolation-accommodations/>.

These are unprecedented times for post-secondary students who will need to decide how best to continue their educational pathway, especially if it involves travel, living abroad and accompanying personal costs. Thankfully, Manitoba continues to have a low cost of living, some of the lowest tuition rates in Canada, and exemplary educational opportunities and experiences.

To support our success in opening Manitoba for international education and to expedite information sharing, we invite your international education lead to join a teleconference call on **Tuesday, August 18, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., dial in 1-855-219-6965 and passcode 682 119 174#**. At this meeting, we will verbally share information on the list of vendor hotels.

Please share this letter with your staff who will attend the meeting, which will include attendees from the public post-secondary institutions and private vocational institutions. Sonya Penner, Executive Director, Post-Secondary Education and Labour Market Outcomes, will lead the meeting along with colleagues from the Province. We apologize for the short timeframes, but as we know, the situation is rapidly evolving.

In closing, I would like to commend your commitment to welcoming international students in Manitoba and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



Colleen Kachulak

Attachment

- c. Sonya Penner, Executive Director of Post-Secondary Education and Labour Market Outcomes
- Heather Mazur, A/Executive Director, Registration, Accountability and Student Financial Support
- Nikki Isaac, Director, Strategic Initiatives

## **PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONAL READINESS REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

The following public health readiness requirements support provinces and territories (P/Ts) in confirming that the *Designated Learning Institutions* (Institutions) in their jurisdictions are ready to safely welcome international students.

These public health requirements should be read in the context of the Government of Canada's Guidance for post-secondary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/covid-19-guidance-post-secondary-institutions-during-pandemic.html>.

The Government of Canada will also be issuing guidance for international students, a draft of which was shared as part of the July 15, 2020 letter from Ministers Hajdu and Mendicino to jurisdictions. The guidance on international students will be aligned with other federal public health guidance related to COVID-19 and may be revised as the situation evolves.

Please provide the name and contact coordinates of the P/T Office of Primary Interest responsible for verifying that the requirements described below have been met. This Office will be responsible for timely notification to the Public Health Agency of Canada:

1. Any individual compliance issues within the 14-day mandatory quarantine periods at an institution on the P/T List;
2. Any SARS-CoV-2 positive cases at an institution on the P/T List during the time period when the Institution is providing quarantine arrangements; and
3. Any material changes that may require modification to the P/T List, or that can inform local or P/T public health activities or that can inform federal border control.

Overall Requirements	Pre-Arrival Requirements for Institutions	14-day Quarantine Requirements	Post-quarantine Requirements
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. P/T and local health guidelines and protocols for Institutions, consistent with Government of Canada's <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/covid-19-guidance-post-secondary-institutions-during-pandemic.html">Guidance for post-secondary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic</a> (<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/covid-19-guidance-post-secondary-institutions-during-pandemic.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/covid-19-guidance-post-secondary-institutions-during-pandemic.html</a>) have been provided to Institutions.</li> <li>2. Mechanisms are in place to assess and ensure <b>readiness of public health authorities and institutions</b> to accept quarantining international students and co-arriving immediate family members.</li> <li>3. Health systems, including local public health authorities, have the capacity for COVID-19 <b>outbreak response</b> should this occur at the institution(s).</li> <li>4. Institutions have acceptable plans in place for robust case management and outbreak response (<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/interim-guidance-cases-contacts.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/interim-guidance-cases-contacts.html</a>) in their communities, and these plans meet the requirements of local and P/T public health guidelines.</li> <li>5. Institutions have protocols for <b>notification</b> of local and P/T authorities of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any <b>compliance</b> issues within the 14-day mandatory quarantine p</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pre-arrival requirements are communicated to international students and their co-arriving immediate family members <b>in advance</b> of travel to Canada.</li> <li>2. As a best practice, international students and their co-arriving immediate family members are encouraged to <b>download the Government of Canada's ArriveCAN</b> application prior to arrival at the border and complete the information required.</li> <li>3. Institutions provide appropriate <b>transportation of international students and their co-arriving immediate family members to a 14-day quarantine location</b>, consistent with Government of Canada recommendations (i.e. wearing a mask for onward domestic travel; travelling directly to place of quarantine);</li> <li>4. <b>Mandatory 14-day quarantine</b> by international students and co-arriving immediate family members is provided at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the institution; or</li> <li>• a private quarantine location that meets the requirements set out under 14-Day Quarantine Requirements, with arrangements made prior to arrival and assessed to be acceptable by the Government of Canada at the time and point of entry.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Institutions have developed and implemented restart plans that include <b>quarantine arrangements for international students and co-arriving immediate family members</b> that support the minimum requirements listed below.</li> <li>2. International students and co-arriving immediate family members are responsible for <b>on-going self-monitoring and assessment of COVID-19 symptoms</b>.</li> <li>3. As a best practice, the <b>ArriveCAN</b> application will be used by international students and co-arriving family members within 48 hours after arrival in Canada, and for their daily symptom reporting;</li> <li>4. Appropriate <b>individual accommodation</b> options for the 14-day quarantine period are provided consistent with current Orders in Council under the <i>Quarantine Act</i> and guidelines of the Government of Canada, as well as the requirements of the institution's local and provincial/territorial public health authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation that students are symptom free, and have a suitable isolation plan ensuring they will not be staying with vulnerable populations or living in a communal or group setting, and will have access to the necessities of life;</li> <li>• Support for all quarantined individuals throughout the 14-day quarantine period, including but not limited to food, medical care and COVID-19 infection control information and training;</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Institutions will continue to support international students and immediate family members after completion of their 14-day quarantine period.</li> <li>2. This includes offering mental and physical health supports, anti-racism and COVID-19 stigma supports, and mitigation of social barriers to support student compliance with individual COVID-19 infection control practices.</li> </ol>

Overall Requirements	Pre-Arrival Requirements for Institutions	14-day Quarantine Requirements	Post-quarantine Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any <b>cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection</b> during the 14-day mandatory quarantine period.</li> </ul> <p>6. Public communications protocols have been established for COVID-19 outbreaks that may impact or implicate international students or their immediate family members.</p> <p>7. The P/T and local public health authorities have mechanisms in place to <b>approve restart plans and verify continued adherence</b> to the institutional requirements in this table.</p> <p>8. The institutional requirements in this table are maintained for as long as the institution appears on the P/T List.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular and robust institutional monitoring of quarantined individuals throughout the 14-day quarantine period for COVID-19 symptoms, general well-being, compliance with quarantine requirements, with emphasis on individual COVID-19 infection control practices;</li> </ul> <p>5. Promotion of reliable, accurate messages about COVID-19, including messaging around COVID-19 related stigma  <a href="https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid19-stigma-guide.pdf">https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid19-stigma-guide.pdf</a> and anti-racisms supports; and</p> <p>6. <a href="#">Mitigation of social barriers to support student compliance with individual COVID-19 infection control practices.</a></p>	