



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

To the campus community,

The university has received confirmation from Nova Scotia Public Health that, as of this afternoon (Tuesday December 7), 12 members of the campus community have received positive PCR tests for COVID-19, and that all are experiencing mild symptoms. Support services (e.g. academic, groceries, etc.) have been enacted for those required to isolate. More cases are expected in the coming days as the Public Health investigation continues and others are tested. Exposure notices related to specific locations will be released through Public Health as they are identified.

Public Health officials, in a meeting with university administration, noted and complimented the high vaccination rate of the campus, our commitment to wearing masks on campus, our testing policy and the quick reaction of the community in mitigating the spread. Many thanks to those who have been testing, monitoring symptoms, and following the isolation protocols when required.

With respect to next steps, as referenced by Dr. Hynes' message to the community earlier today, Public Health has reinforced there is no current rationale to interrupt our operational plans regarding offering in-person exams. In fact, it was noted that, in conjunction with mask-wearing, exam settings are typically a lower risk environment, due to physical spacing and limited interaction.

While we know that news of these new cases will cause anxiety, please be assured that university officials continue to work closely with Public Health to monitor the overall status of the outbreak and receive their input and recommendations. The university continues to take its lead from their direction as we have done throughout the course of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Andy W. Hakin
President and Vice-Chancellor
St. Francis Xavier University