



## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

To the campus community,

The health and safety of our communities remain our top priority and the very best way to protect ourselves is to be fully vaccinated. If you haven't done so, please get your shots at the first opportunity.

With that in mind, I write to provide you with three very important updates related to the pandemic and university operations.

- The university has begun consultations with our union leadership and the Students' Union related to a mandatory testing policy for all students, staff, and faculty. Testing will be free and will be available during regular working hours to ensure accessibility. While we strongly encourage regular asymptomatic testing among all members of the community, constituents who are fully vaccinated will be exempt from mandatory testing with proper proof of vaccination. More details will be shared with the campus community as we develop the plans in the days ahead.
- The university will conduct a campus-wide census survey to help us quantify and understand the vaccination status of all staff, faculty, and students to support planning purposes. The survey will be conducted by a third party -- Narrative Research, a well-respected firm based out of Halifax. Please note that the university will only receive aggregate data, with nothing personally identifiable. These results will be shared with the university community.

**This short survey will be delivered via email to all staff, faculty, and students at later today and will contain the subject line "StFX VACCINATION STATUS SURVEY". We ask that all students, staff, and faculty complete the survey at first opportunity. The deadline to complete the survey is end of day Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.**

- Vaccinations will be available on campus. The Nova Scotia Health mobile vaccination clinic will be on campus on Friday, September 3rd and returning again Monday, September 13th. The mobile clinic is free and first-come, first served. Exact times will be shared with the campus community once confirmed.

Please note that we will be hosting a Staff and Faculty Information Session on Tuesday, August 31, from 11 AM – 12 PM. Please mark your calendars and be watching your employee email box for a link to this session.

As we approach the beginning of the fall semester, I remain confident that the university is prepared. As mentioned in a previous email, we have evidence that indicates our community has heeded the call for vaccinations. In fact, along with the very low number of students who have registered to isolate on campus (20 – including New Brunswick students) and our Neighbours Helping Neighbours off-campus support (2 – including New Brunswick students), the data we have received to date from the province related to its mandatory Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form indicates 93% of students en route to StFX from outside of Atlantic Canada will be arriving fully vaccinated (based on a sample size of 324 so far).

Our protocols, which proved effective in 2020-21, have been reviewed and continue to be sound. What's new to other institutions, such as isolation procedures, we have successfully executed over the last academic year. Having said that, we remain diligent and will continue to adapt and respond when necessary, based on the latest epidemiology and guidance from the experts in Public Health.

Thank you everyone for your efforts to date. We are poised to have another successful year.

More to come.

Andy

**ANDY HAKIN**

**PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR**

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I acknowledge that StFX is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.