



This afternoon, the University of Calgary was made aware of a case where an individual was on campus who later tested positive for the Omicron variant. The people who were in the same classroom as the individual have been informed and asked to monitor for symptoms.

University leadership and public health experts are watching this situation closely. Given the specifics of this case, **no changes are being announced at this time and in-person exams are continuing as previously planned.**

Should we be made aware of more Omicron cases, further action is possible. That could include cancelling in-person examination in one or multiple faculties. In that situation, the Faculties affected would need to determine alternatives for final grades.

#### **OMICRON VARIANT**

I want to stress that what we don't know about the Omicron variant still exceeds what we know, and any action would be taken out of an abundance of caution while the facts become clear.

We have consulted public health officials who indicate that our current methods to reduce the spread – vaccination, wearing masks in indoor public spaces and staying home when sick – should continue. No additional actions are being recommended at this time.

#### **WINTER SEMESTER**

With classes for winter semester beginning in just under a month, many of you have asked if the increased presence of the Omicron variant in Alberta will be causing a change to January plans for teaching and learning, research and other activity on campus.

At this point, we do not know. Teams are meeting daily to assess the situation locally and the data coming out of jurisdictions such as South Africa, the U.K. and Ontario that are already seeing community spread of this new variant. We will continue to make data-driven decisions as information becomes available.

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My commitment is that we will continue to share information as it becomes available and share decisions as they are made.

If you are concerned about your exposure and would like to be tested, you are able to pick up rapid antigen tests for Covid-19 [from participating pharmacies](#) as of tomorrow. Other supports are available to deal with the mental and social aspects, which I want to emphasize are there for us all.

Please be safe over this holiday season,

Teri Balser  
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

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