

Columbia Bible College COVID-19 Plan for Fall 2020

August 7, 2020

A few years ago, the Columbia Bible College community crafted vision statement that declared our desire to “embody and promote God’s kingdom vision of transformation for the church and world as reflected in Scripture, and develop Christ-followers who are maturing spiritually, academically, and ethically – inspired and able to positively impact their careers, churches, and communities.” This remains our goal and focus for the year ahead.

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced considerable uncertainty, anxiety and even conflict into our world. This is one of the reasons why we believe that the learning, discipling and maturing that happens at Columbia is more necessary than ever. Even though the year ahead is going to look different, and require a willingness to forego some of our ‘normal’ patterns of life, we know that by working together this can be a great year!

The following framework describes what it will look like for Columbia to provide a safe, healthy, and transformational education and discipleship experience. Columbia intends to provide on-campus living and in-person, physically distanced classes for Fall 2020. Columbia will resume face-to-face classes with physical distancing and online course components.

1. General Information for Staff and Students

The following represents Columbia’s plan, with possible changes ahead as we gather more information from our public health officials regarding provincial operational guidelines for Fall 2020. We are committed to adhering to the protocols contained within the [COVID-19 Go-Forward Guidelines for B.C.’s Post-Secondary Sector](#), released by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education on July 31. Restrictions may be reduced gradually, or reinstated later. We will communicate with provincial and local public health authorities to the fullest extent possible.

Columbia is characterized by its Christ-centered, caring community. Learning new and innovative ways of promoting that kind of community will be one of the key opportunities for the upcoming year. The protocols will change the normal way of doing things, will be inconvenient at times, and there will be differing opinions on how necessary or strict they need to be. To help promote a positive and healthy culture, Columbia will educate staff, faculty and students about the COVID-19 plan, emphasizing the need to demonstrate love and grace for each other by complying with the necessary health and safety protocols.

Principles for Fall 2020 program delivery and campus life

1. Prioritize health, safety, and community-building to support a high-quality student learning experience.
2. Ensure community safety as a shared responsibility among all students, faculty, and staff.
3. Prioritize student experience by limiting public access to the Columbia campus and enhancing forms of student engagement.

4. Adhere to British Columbia Public Health guidelines to appropriately accommodate program delivery and on-campus safety.

Protocols for students to be on campus

1. Daily self-screening for all members of the Columbia community (staff/faculty/students). See <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
2. Be symptom-free (if living in Columbia residences, self-isolate)
3. Maintain physical distancing wherever possible
4. Complete orientation on procedures and protocols for being on campus
5. Practice diligent hygiene
6. Wear non-medical face masks when physical distancing is impossible, and where face masks are mandated
7. Respect guidelines for social interaction in residences, dining hall, lounges, and study spaces/library
8. Exercise care for self, peers, and the wider learning community.
9. Self-quarantine as required by British Columbia Public Health directives.

Education programming: web-enabled face-to-face delivery

Columbia will hold on-campus, in-person classes in fall and winter terms 2020-21, with online components designed to increase flexibility of student access to material. Classroom limits have been reduced by more than half to enable physical distancing. All classrooms have been equipped with technology that will enable students who cannot attend class to access material either via live-stream or video-on-demand.

Within our web-enabled face-to-face delivery model, students are responsible to be present in class throughout the year, *unless they are unable to attend for reasons listed below.*

- Physically unwell or having COVID-19 symptoms
- Being immuno-compromised or otherwise at greater health risk

Students for whom any of these situations apply require accommodations for online-only attendance. In order to facilitate their educational needs, these students must contact the Registrar (Erwin.Klassen@columbiabc.edu).

Protocols for life on campus

- All students will receive mandatory orientation on procedures and protocols for life on campus including (but not limited to):
 - Personal hygiene and cleaning practices
 - Physical distancing requirements
 - Campus traffic flow protocols
- Hand sanitization and hygiene stations will be located throughout the campus.
- Classrooms, labs, dining hall, lounges, and study spaces will ensure appropriate physical distancing.
- The wearing of face masks in classrooms is required for all students unless it is inadvisable due to physical or mental illness or impairment, or a disability that

means one cannot put on, wear or remove a face mask. Face shields will be available for those unable to wear a face mask.

- Clear signage will safely direct campus movement.
- Access to all Columbia buildings will be by student or staff card only.

Residence life

Columbia is committed to the health, safety, and wellness of all Residence Students.

- Residence rooms are open for students for the 2020-21 year at a lower student density, and with some provision of rooms for those requiring quarantine.
- Frequent sanitation of high-touch common areas, training of cleaning protocols, for rooms and bathrooms, clear signage, reduced occupancy in lounges, and a robust quarantine plan for those who are symptomatic are in place. Further details are provided in the Residence Policy.
- Meal plans for residence students include takeout options and staggered arrival times for meals in the dining hall are based on the course schedule.
- Students living in residences are permitted to access each other's rooms, with appropriate restrictions given space sizes in rooms and lounges. Initial limits are in place regarding suspension of "open dorms" for junior housing, as well as limited access between units (Further details are provided in the Residence Policy).
- Commuter students have full but modified access to the entire campus, except for residences. The Commuter Lounge modifications will be communicated by Commuter Hosts via email to the commuter students, and signage will be posted within the Commuter Lounge.
- A 14-day self-isolation period is required by British Columbia Public Health for persons coming from international locations. The scope of this requirement may change—students are asked to monitor British Columbia Health guidelines. If necessary, Columbia will provide self-isolation accommodations for 14 days, for residence students who otherwise have no place to self-isolate with family or friend options in Canada. International students living on campus must work with Residence Directors to finalize their self-isolation plans. If international students decide to travel outside of Canada over the Christmas break, or at any other time during the school year, self-isolation upon return to Canada for the required length of time must take place off-campus prior to return to residences.

Health, wellness, and community life

Columbia is committed to the health, wellness, and thriving of all members of its entire learning community and will provide robust opportunities for wellness promotion.

- Regular student supports and services for both on-campus and commuter students will be available both in-person and virtually.
- Spiritual formation will include on-campus chapel services, and residence unit meetings will occur weekly.
- New recreation, wellness, and art opportunities will provide exciting health promotion, while remaining physically distant.
- Counselling services will be available, both in safe in-person session and online.

- Bearcat athletics will resume following British Columbia Public Health directives and games on campus will occur without spectators until restrictions are removed.

Who to contact for more information

Student Development-related inquiries: Karen.Thiessen@columbiabc.edu

Admissions-related inquiries: Tina.Richardson@columbiabc.edu

2. COVID-19 Pandemic Office Policies and Procedures

In order to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19, Columbia has implemented a “Return to Work Plan.” The College recognizes the importance of worker safety as businesses look to resume operations following COVID-19 related work stoppages or interruptions. The attached COVID-19 Safety Plan outlines the policies, guidelines, and procedures Columbia has put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. See *COVID-19 Pandemic Office Policies and Procedures* (<https://www.columbiabc.edu/alerts-covid-19-health-safety-update>).

3. Additional COVID-19 Protocols for Specific Locations on Campus

- Columbia Place** – *Columbia Place COVID-19 Protocols* are available upon request.
- Residences (Columbia Hall and Redekop Hall)** - see *Columbia Bible College Residence Policy* outlining protocols for Residence life.
- Student Centre (Dining Hall)** - most COVID protocols for the Student Centre are covered in the COVID-19 Pandemic Office Policies and Procedures document. In addition, see the Protocols for Restaurants, Cafes and Pubs for further information regarding our Dining Hall operations (<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/restaurant-cafes-pubs>).
- Resource Centre** – most COVID protocols for the Resource Centre are covered in the COVID-19 Pandemic Office Policies and Procedures document. However, additional protocols have been instituted for the Library (the *Library Restart Plan* is available upon request) and the Metzger Collection (see below).

Metzger Collection

The Metzger Collection has re-opened for visitors on an appointment basis. Out of a continued concern for the health and well-being of our community we have implemented several precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit, including the following:

- We have provided hand sanitizing stations at key locations including the elevator and entrance/exit.
- We are limiting the number of visitors in the museum space (hence the need to make an appointment).
- We are limiting group bookings to no more than ten.
- We have increased our cleaning schedule, including the regular disinfecting of high-touch areas.

- We have posted notices to remind visitors of COVID-19 etiquette, including the need for physical distancing.

e. Teaching Centre and Chapels – COVID protocols for the Teaching Centre are covered above, as well as in the COVID-19 Pandemic Office Policies and Procedures document. However, some specific protocols have been implemented for chapels. In the interest of caring spiritually for students, staff, and faculty, we will continue to run on-campus chapels. We will, however, modify how we do this to ensure the health and safety of our community.

- Chapels will continue to take place on campus, but will be limited to a maximum of 49 people, and physical distancing will be maintained.
- To accommodate our community, we will offer 5 similar chapel services a week. Individuals will be registered for a specific chapel time in order to monitor numbers and attendees for each service.
- Face masks (or face shields) will be required for all who attend chapel. Those leading the service will not be required to wear face coverings.
- To ensure additional ventilation, windows in the chapel will be opened during services.
- Traffic in and out of the chapel will be directed through different doors and down different stairwells in keeping with provincial guidelines for indoor gatherings.
- Chapel services will include some singing but will also focus on other forms of spiritual practice and expression
- We will open the windows in the chapel to ensure additional ventilation.
- Traffic flow in and out of the chapel will be managed in such a way as to reduce congestion at door entrances/exits and in the hallways.