

December 31, 2021

As the COVID-19 cases continue to increase across BC, NIC has reviewed operations and has decided to proceed with original plans for the beginning of the Winter 2022 term.

Most NIC programs are scheduled to start on Jan. 10, 2022 with trades, Health Care Assistant and Practical Nursing programs scheduled to start or continue on Jan. 4, 2022. Students should check their class or program schedule for details through self-service on myNIC.

Campuses will remain open and NIC libraries, Student Services, bookstores and food services will be available starting Jan. 4, 2022. Advising and counselling services will be available digitally and in person.

The ongoing pandemic is rapidly changing, requiring constant flexibility. If you are a student registered for in-person classes who needs to temporarily study from home, please reach out to your instructor. You may also book an appointment with an [Advisor](#) or email questions@nic.bc.ca for any support you might need.

Based on experience in BC and internationally, the Provincial Health Officer [states](#) that educational settings are low-risk for COVID-19 transmission. Please continue to use the [Thrive BC self-check](#) to monitor your health before attending campus.

The College continues to monitor the situation and work in consultation with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, students and employee groups to hear any concerns. Updates will continue to be made on this page, as required.

I appreciate your patience as we work to support you in these changing times.

Sincerely,

Lisa Domae
President and CEO

What's new?

- In-person orientation events for all students have been moved [online](#).
- If you are a student registered for in-person classes who needs to temporarily study from home, please reach out to your instructor.
- Alternatives to in-person delivery *may* be available for some courses. Please check with an [Advisor](#) for more information.
- [Provincial mask orders](#) remain in place, with the Provincial Health Officer recommending masks with more than one layer of protection. Quality three-layer masks are distributed at building entrances. NIC's Purchasing Department will work with Deans and Directors to determine the quantity of medical-grade masks required for frontline faculty and staff who would prefer to use them. These masks may not be available if required in health care settings.
- The Centre for Teaching and Learning Innovation (CTLI) is available to support students and instructors. Please visit the [Learn Anywhere](#) and [Teach Anywhere](#) sites for resources. will be hosting two offerings for faculty on Jan. 5 and 6 of the same session discussing alternative ideas for students and instructors who are unable to attend classes. Watch for an email from CTLI on

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Jan. 4 to register. Instructors can also email ctli@nic.bc.ca for a private consultation to discuss class and course ideas and alternatives.

- The College's scheduling team is looking to maximize learning spaces by moving classes to larger rooms and technology-enabled classrooms wherever possible.

December 20, 2021

As we head into the new year, we wanted to update you on NIC's plans to support student and employee safety as COVID-19 cases rise across BC.

The increase in cases, and the emergence of the Omicron variant, have caused anxiety and uncertainty across the region, Canada and the world.

We know many students, instructors and employees are now planning for the Winter Term and wondering whether the evolving pandemic will affect their studies, course outlines and work.

As we have done over the past 22 months, NIC is relying on a public health approach to support and guide us. We are planning to continue our combination of in-person, digital and blended learning to support student learning.

We will continue to consult and share information with the post-secondary sector, with provincial public health officers, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training and the unions in the coming weeks to monitor the situation. If the pandemic requires any new prevention measures, we will update this page as soon as possible throughout the break.

Please refer to the [NIC COVID-19 Safety Guidelines](#) and the FAQ pages below for detailed information.

September 7, 2021

NIC's updated [COVID-19 Safety Guidelines](#) provide information for students and employees on health checks, mask requirements, cleaning, and vaccination requirements across all NIC campuses, in accordance with provincial [COVID-19 Return-to-Campus Guidelines](#) and a detailed provincial [order](#) on face coverings.

Masks are **required** in classrooms and public indoor spaces, including washrooms, hallways, Library & Learning Commons, cafeterias and public gathering areas. Students seeking mask exemptions should contact studentlife@nic.bc.ca before attending class or the campus. Students may be asked for medical documentation or a letter from Student Life by their instructors or others about their exemption status. Employees seeking exemptions should talk to their supervisor who will work with Human Resources to discuss the accommodation process.

Proof of vaccination is not required to attend classes at NIC. The [BC Vaccine Card](#) is in effect for non-essential services across BC, including indoor/outdoor dining at restaurants, pubs and bars. However, on-campus cafeterias are exempt. We encourage all eligible students and employees to get vaccinated at a [COVID-19 Immunization Clinic](#) as the most effective way to reduce risk on campus. For more information see the [COVID-19 Safety Guidelines](#) below.

July 12, 2021

We can't wait to welcome you back this Fall! Over the past year, many NIC students told us that digital learning provided incredible access and flexibility to their programs. This year we are proud to offer a combination of in person classes, as well as digital and blended delivery options.

As of Aug. 2, all NIC registration staff will be open to the public, without an appointment, to answer your questions and help you prepare for the year ahead.

The resources below provide helpful information on returning to campus safely, as well as program delivery, registration, orientation and financial supports for the 2021/2022 academic year.

May 25, 2021

We can't wait to welcome you back this Fall, and will do that safely with assistance of the Province's [COVID-19 Return-to-Campus Primer](#). The primer is a planning tool intended to provide high-level guidance **to support planning for a safe return of students, faculty and staff** to post-secondary campuses this September.

NIC has established a return to Fall campus planning committee, which will use the Primer to guide our work as we wait for the next document from the province called COVID-19 Go-Forward Guidelines, which is expected later this summer. Please stay tuned to this website for updates/

Dr. Bonnie Henry was the special guest at a town hall recently, where she, and others from the Provincial Health Office, answered questions from post-secondary leaders about the Primer. You can watch the town hall [here](#).

PPE Recycling Boxes

You will also notice that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) recycling boxes have been placed at several entrances to campuses as well as other strategic locations. Please feel free to place discarded PPE items, as indicated on the box, in these boxes so that they can be turned into clean energy by Canadian company [GreenCircle](#).

April 27, 2021

Masks now mandatory at all times within all NIC class spaces

Changes have been made to the Provincial Health Officer Workplace and Post-secondary Institution Safety Order to respond to an increase in community transmission and COVID-19 cases, and to support the WorkSafeBC requirement for COVID-19 Safety Plans to ensure consistent mask wearing in indoor common areas.

Effective April 28, masks are mandatory at all times within all classroom* spaces in post-secondary institutions. Masks may no longer be removed when seated at a physically distanced desk.

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***Classroom** means an indoor area in, or provided by, a post-secondary institution in which the instruction of students takes place or in which students are engaged in educational activities.

The order outlines exceptions for very specific circumstances only, as listed in Section 9, which include:

There is a physical barrier between the worker or student and other workers, or students, which blocks the transmission of droplets. (This includes face shields).

Employees who are alone within their own office space are not required to wear masks.

Masks are still mandatory within all indoor public spaces at NIC.

This order does not have an expiration date.

Please check your NIC email regularly for updates as well as the COVID-19 safety information website.

Colin Fowler CPA, CMA

Vice-President, Finance and Facilities

North Island College

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March 9, 2021

NIC Preparing for In-person Classes this September

March 9, 2021 - NIC will be able to provide even more certainty this September for our students during these uncertain times, thanks to Dr. Bonnie Henry's media announcement Monday regarding more in-person classes coming to BC's post-secondary institutions this Fall.

The College has been working on ensuring students continue to have safe, accessible and clear options for learning this September, which will now include more in-person learning on campus as recommended by the Provincial Health Officer.

"Faculty, staff and our Senior Education Team have been planning the Fall timetable to ensure NIC meets the varied needs of students by delivering programs on campus, digitally and a blend of both on campus and digital learning," said NIC's Interim President Colin Fowler. "While many programs will be returning to campus this September, some students prefer the flexibility and accessibility of online classes, so some programs will continue in a digital format."

Fowler said NIC will release more details on specific program delivery in the coming weeks.

"Applications are now open for Fall 2021 and we encourage students to apply early as we believe programs will fill up quickly based on our current enrolment," Fowler said.

NIC's full timetable, including which classes will be offered in-person, digitally and in a blended format will be released on May 18 at www.nic.bc.ca Registration will open June 7 for continuing students and June 14 for new students.

Students may book an appointment on-line to plan their educational goals with one of our Educational Advisors by emailing advising@nic.bc.ca

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Dr. Henry said in a letter to BC post-secondary Presidents on Monday that she strongly supports the resumption of on-campus activities this Fall.

“I am very confident that the combination of immunization and continued application of the COVID-19 Go-Forward Guidelines for BC’s Post-Secondary Sector will support the safe and complete resumption of campus teaching, learning, and research,” Dr. Henry said in the letter. “There are very good reasons to be confident that a return to on-campus instruction in the Fall can be undertaken safely and successfully.”

March 7, 2021

We wanted to let you know that NIC has been informed by Public Health that there was a **COVID-19 exposure at the Campbell River Campus** on March 2 from 4 to 5:30 pm and March 3 from 8:30 am to 3 pm.

The exposure was contained to a small group of students, Public Health have completed contact tracing to identify anyone who has had a high-risk exposure.

Unless you are deemed as having a high-risk exposure, you are not required to isolate at this time. In other words, if you have not heard from Island Health you should continue as usual.

Please check your NIC email regularly for updates.

Please remember that hand washing, physical distancing and mask wearing are your best defenses against COVID-19.

Colin Fowler CPA, CMA

Interim President

North Island College

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

As always, please monitor yourself closely for symptoms of COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms, immediately self-isolate at home. Call the Island Health testing line at 1-844-901-8442 to arrange for testing.

HOW IS COVID-19 SPREAD?

COVID-19 is primarily spread by the respiratory droplets an infected person produces when they breathe, cough, sneeze, talk, or sing. If you are in close contact with an infected person, the virus can enter your body if droplets get into your throat, nose, or eyes.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 INCLUDE:

- Headaches, muscle aches, fatigue
- Loss of taste & smell
- Fever/chills
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite
- Shortness of breath
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough

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Most people who get COVID-19 experience only mild illness. A smaller number of people who get COVID-19 may experience more moderate to severe illness, and for a minority of cases, hospitalization may be required.

For privacy reasons, we cannot provide any other details on the COVID-19 exposure.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

Island Health COVID-19 Homepage: islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19

BCCDC COVID-19 Homepage: bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19

How to self-isolate: www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation

How to get test results: bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/test-results

January 28, 2021

NIC's [COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan](#) has been updated. The document provides updated guidance on the use of non-medical masks, control measures for services, programs and operational areas, procedures for general meeting spaces and visiting guests.

In summary, the following safety measures continue to be in place:

Daily entry checks for all onsite students and employees;

Required masks and physical distancing in all public indoor spaces at NIC, including outdoor space if physical distancing requirements cannot be maintained; and

Updated [guidance on potential exposures](#).

Visit our [Safe Start page](#) for more information on programs, student services, study spaces and financial supports.

Employees will find the most current travel and work-from-home procedures on the [Information for all employees page](#). Process documents and forms for new programs, services and operations are on the [Health and Safety pages on myNIC](#).