



January 14, 2021

To the Brescia community,

It has been over a year now, since reports of a “new virus” was identified, where health experts across the globe shared widespread concern of its potential devastating effects. I am sure that none of us thought that COVID-19 would affect us in so many ways, and force us to drastically rethink the way we study, work and live to the full extent we have experienced.

On Tuesday, the Ontario government declared a [second provincial emergency](#) and issued a “[stay at home” order](#), which includes further restrictions to help slow the spread of COVID-19 across the province.

We continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students, employees and all members of the Brescia community and make decisions following this guiding principle. It is for this reason that we have made the decision that **all remaining in-person Brescia courses will move to an online format for the rest of the winter term. This includes all Brescia labs.**

Placements that are occurring for the School of Food and Nutritional Sciences students will continue. Students who are participating in other courses with placements may continue, in those settings that remain open to in-person activities (with health and safety measures in place) and where students feel comfortable completing.

We know this decision may cause some anxiety for our community. Our faculty and staff have worked very hard to offer engaging online classes and we did our best to include safe options for a limited number of in-person courses. However, with recent increases in case numbers across the province and changing government directives, we know the best decision to ensure the continued safety of our community, is for Brescia to move courses and services fully online.

Clare Hall will remain open for our students living in or returning to residence. Clare Hall staff and our student leaders will continue to support all students living in residence. For students who have not yet confirmed their return plans, please contact [Carolyn Temple, Residence Manager](#).

The Hive staff are busy working remotely connecting with our students via phone, live chat and email. We know that you will have questions and we are here, ready to assist you. The Hive is available Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. and can be reached by email at [brescia@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia@uwo.ca) or by phone at 519-858-5151. Live Chat is available through [visiting our website](#).

The Beryl Ivey Library will provide access to the physical collection for the remainder of the academic year in support of learning, teaching, and research at Brescia. More information from the library will be shared next week. Please check the [Beryl Ivey Library website for updates](#).

As well, Brescia’s Writing Centre is operating virtually to support our students. Please visit their website to [book appointments online](#).

We want to ensure our community continues to keep health and safety as a priority, and also to take additional time to focus on mental health and personal well-being. For students—the Student Life



Centre is open virtually and our [wellness programs](#) continue to run online. For faculty and staff – [EAP resources](#) remain available for employees and their immediate family members.

We know that 2021 has already challenged us, after a very difficult 2020. Remember that Brescia students, faculty and staff form a strong, unique group. It takes the strength of a community like ours to show kindness and compassion to others as we work together through these challenging days. These words from the 9<sup>th</sup> Counsel of the Writings of St. Angela Merici, are so important, always, and especially now; “live in harmony, united in one heart and one will.”

As we have done for the past 100 years, the Brescia community will continue to stand together, united in heart, as the Ursulines have taught us. We have persevered through many obstacles and challenges since our inception, and this pandemic will be no exception. May the compassionate and unwavering spirit of our community, as well as the dedication of our students, faculty and staff inspire and lift us through the remainder of the winter term.

Take good care, stay safe, and stay well.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Jensen, BSc, M.Ed.  
Interim Principal