

September 1, 2021

Dear Brescia community,

In one week from today, Brescia will hold our first day of classes – proudly welcoming new and returning students to campus for what promises to be an exciting 2021-2022 academic year. While we are eagerly looking forward to a return of many of the in-person classes and activities that we have all missed, it is important that we all continue to focus on the health and safety of our campus community. It is for this reason that I am contacting you today.

On August 31st, the Ontario government released guidelines for post-secondary institutions across the province. Within this announcement, we were made aware that institutions with strong vaccination policies – like Brescia’s – are permitted to maintain flexible capacity limits and physical distancing requirements for indoor instructional spaces, such as classrooms, labs and libraries.

After months of careful planning and consideration for the health and safety of our campus community, we are pleased to report that this announcement supports Brescia’s plans for a return to in-person learning this fall.

While I cannot tell you with certainty what the future will bring, as of today, I wanted to outline some important information to keep in mind when accessing Brescia’s campus and services:

- Masks will continue to be worn by all members of our community. Masks should be a three-layer (non-medical) mask and worn at all times indoors, unless you are alone in your room in Clare Hall or private office/work space.
- Masks and appropriate PPE will be available for all departments and areas across campus, where needed. Students and visitors may access masks at main building entrances – such as the Mother St. James Building Front Desk and at the Service Desk in the Beryl Ivey Library.
- Physical distancing, where possible, is another practice we will continue to follow. This includes reduced capacity in the Mercato, and other study and lounge spaces across campus.
- Please be aware that no food or beverage is permitted during class.
- The Beryl Ivey Library will re-open September 7th to the Brescia community. Updated information about hours and services will be announced later this week on the [Library website](#).
- Brescia’s Facilities Management team will continue to maintain their stringent cleaning protocol, which was developed early on in the pandemic. Hand sanitizing stations and disinfecting wipes can be found in many locations across campus.
- [Proof of vaccination](#) is required to access Brescia’s campus, along with Western, Huron and King’s campuses. Members of our community must present proof of full vaccination by October 12th, 2021. Those still waiting to provide proof of vaccination, will be required to be tested for COVID-19 twice per seven-day period in the interim to attend campus.
- At Brescia, we love our events! This year, you can expect a combination of in-person and virtual events that follow all public health guidelines. This includes OWeek activities and our International Bridging program.
- The Mercato will fully reopen September 4th to serve all Brescia students. Please check the [Food Services website](#) for updated hours of operation.



- Campus Guides will again be available across campus to help answer any questions you may have and provide you with the best direction to safely access buildings and services.
- And finally—your courses. We know our students greatly benefit from in-person classes where there is dynamic discussion and debate, along with strong connections that develop between professors and classmates. We are doing all we can to preserve the in-person classroom experience and have made plans to offer a suite of online courses to offer flexibility for students.

In addition, beginning September 8th, as we welcome students back to campus, we will also see the return of many employees to Brescia's work places. At this time, every University department will have at least one employee on campus available in-person. This will allow us to remain flexible as we transition to our in-person experience, and to deliver the quality supports and services that our campus is known for.

There are many things to look forward to this September, as we embark on a bold new academic year. Brescia will continue to make decisions that prioritize the health and well-being of our community, while ensuring that our students receive the best experience that we can provide. We encourage all students, staff and faculty to be vaccinated as soon as possible, to protect the health and safety of our community and those closest to us.

As the academic year begins, please know that I will continue to provide timely updates as new information becomes available. I thank you all for your ongoing patience, your kindness and your enthusiasm as we work together to safely welcome everyone back to campus this fall.

Yours truly,
Lauretta Frederking, Ph.D.
President