



# Risk Reduction at VCA

## **Individuals as Risk**

A further consideration is for individuals at risk of a more severe illness (because they are over 60 years old, have compromised immune systems, or underlying chronic medical conditions) to properly inform themselves of risk, assess their own risk-tolerance, and think through extra precautions they may wish to take over the coming months.

## **Understanding the Risk**

COVID-19 is a respiratory infection that is transmitted through person-to-person contact. As with many other respiratory infections, the likelihood of severe illness is much higher in the elderly and among those with chronic medical conditions. Illness due to COVID-19 infection is generally mild.

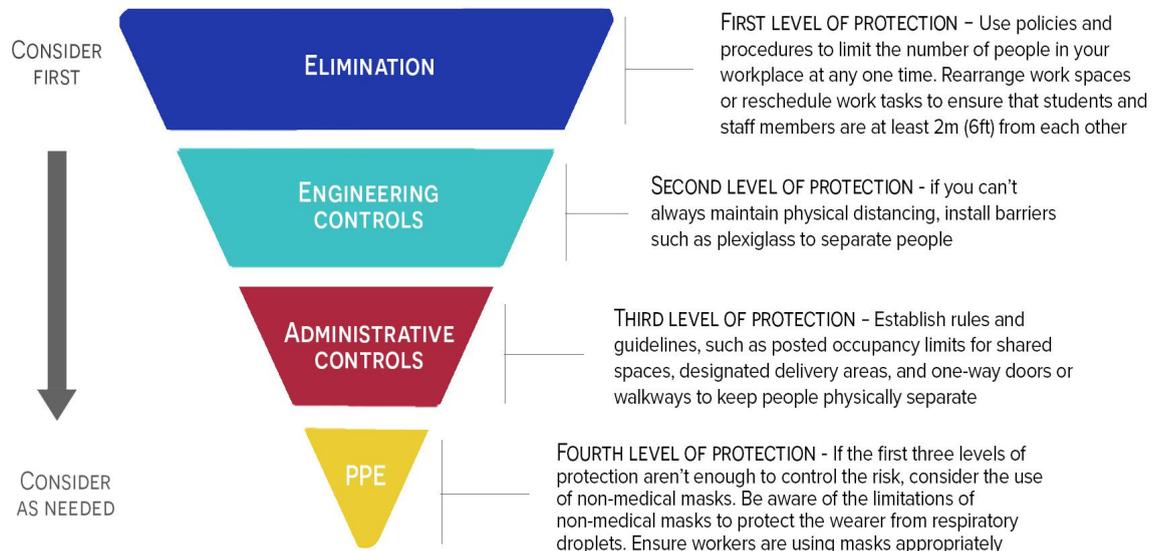
In accordance with the order of the Provincial Health Officer, this COVID-19 Safety plan will be posted and implemented accordingly:

## **Reducing the Risk of COVID-19**

Appropriate prevention measures will continue to be considered with the level of community transmission of COVID-19. The suitability and effectiveness of the intervention will also be monitored and assessed to ensure that the prevention measures will also depend on what the institution needs to function effectively and safely.

# REDUCING THE RISK OF COVID-19

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## First level protection (elimination):

Where practical, promote safe physical distancing between people as recommended by the Provincial Health Officer. Use policies and procedures to reduce the number of prolonged close contacts among faculty, staff, and students. These may include creating assigned seating in classrooms and ensuring that students who have multiple classes together are assigned to sit next to each other as much as possible.

## Second level protection (engineering controls):

In situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained and a large number of contacts are expected (e.g. at a cash register in a cafeteria), install physical barriers such as plexiglass.

## Third level protection (administrative controls):

Establish rules and guidelines, such as cleaning protocols, advising faculty, staff, and students not to share tools, or implementing one-way doors or walkways. Maintain hand hygiene stations and clean high touch surfaces.

## Fourth level protection (non-medical masks or PPE):

During periods of high levels of community transmission and when physical distancing is difficult to maintain, consider the use of non-medical masks. Be aware of the limitation of non-medical masks to protect the wearer from respiratory droplets. Ensure faculty, staff and

students are using masks appropriately. Health experts advise that masks may be problematic for some people, such as those with asthma, autism, or hearing impairments. For this reason, other options should be included in planning. Note that medical grade PPE may be mandatory in a limited number of post-secondary settings (e.g., clinical settings, laboratories)

## Roles and Responsibilities

Safety is everyone's responsibility; all students, staff and visitors are expected to follow the measures and guidelines of the COVID-19 Safety plan.

VCA commits to:

- Ensuring this plan is in compliance with all provincial and federal health and safety regulations.
- Ensuring common areas, classrooms and offices have been analyzed for safe occupancy limits and have maximum capacities clearly posted.
- Ensuring necessary signage is posted at all entrances, washrooms and common areas.
- Providing flexibility, tools and resources for staff to be able to work from home when necessary.
- Installing physical barriers such as plexiglass where physical distancing is not possible, and including them in cleaning protocols.
- Providing guidelines, training and signage for students and staff regarding safe conduct on Campus. ? Ensuring adequate handwashing and hand sanitizing supplies are available on campus.
- Ensuring enhanced cleaning protocols are followed.
- Ensuring College relevant policies and practices (e.g., travel, illness, self-isolation, working from home etc.) adequately address COVID-19 and are clearly communicated.

**Staff members, Administrators, and Instructors are responsible for:**

- Reading and understanding the VCA COVID-19 safety plan and related materials
- Ensuring their functional areas on campus or returning to campus have COVID-19 safety plans in place if applicable

**All staff, students and visitors are required of the following before coming to campus and /or while on campus:**

- Taking the self-assessment online and conducting a Self-assessment daily for COVID-19 symptoms
- Sign in at the front desk for confirmation of self-monitoring
- Allow temperatures to be taken upon entry
- Read and understand the VCA's COVID-19 safety plan
- Attending health and safety training sessions and meetings as required
- Read, understand, and follow the safety signage such as room occupancy, physical distancing direction of travel, and seating
- Following posted safe hygiene and hand-washing practices

- Wearing medical or non-medical PPE as circumstances require

VCA commits to safely adhering to these policies and protocols. If an outbreak is detected, we have developed a [COVID-19 Contingency Plan](#).

## **Pre-Arrival Planning and Communication**

VCA is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all its students and community by following the guidelines of the Government of Canada and health authorities. For more information about how VCA is addressing the COVID-19 situation and how it protects the health and safety of our community, please visit our website.

This [Pre-Arrival Guide](#) to provide international students who plan to travel to Canada with important information regarding the current travel restrictions and mandatory quarantine requirements considering COVID-19. Please review this information carefully for important updates and resources for a safe arrival in Canada. It is the responsibility of VCA international students to understand the federal and provincial laws and regulations before planning to arrive in Canada. Students are recommended to review the government websites regularly for up-to-date information as they are subject to change.

As best practice, international students and their co-arriving immediate family members are encouraged to download the Government of Canada's [ArriveCan](#) Link prior to arrival at the border and complete the information required.

International Students are required to:

- Review Recent and up to date Travel Restrictions
- Review and adhere to the Quarantine Requirements
- Provide information on self-isolation and be available for check-ins by phone or email.
- Review and adhere to the information on VCA's website regarding the COVID-19 Safety Plan and any further program-specific requirements or policies.

The Vice President of Administration at VCA is committed to utilizing relevant aspects of the ArriveCAN application to encourage and assist international students to provide the Government of Canada with voluntary updates on their quarantine compliance and to report on the development of any symptoms during the 14 days after arriving in Canada.

## **Post-arrival planning and communication:**

VCA is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all its students and community by following the guidelines of the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and local health and safety authorities. For more information about how we are addressing the COVID-19 situation, and how we are working to protect the health and safety of our community at large, please visit our website.

The Arrival Plan for International Students document provides an overview of how we are ready to work with international students who plan to travel to Canada to ensure compliance

with travel restrictions and mandatory quarantine requirements so that the health and safety of our communities continues to be protected.

Please note:

- An assigned College representative will be communicating and monitoring international students daily during the 14- day self-isolation period.
- Provide supports for students' mental wellbeing and integration into the campus community during self-isolation.
- Service BC may conduct compliance and wellness phone checks.

### **Information on anti-racism and COVID-19 stigma supports**

Students will receive accurate and up to date messaging regarding COVID-19 as part of orientation, during quarantine, and at any other time during their studies as appropriate. VCA will include information about COVID-19-related stigma and anti-racism support, both as part of orientation for students and on an ongoing as-needed basis.

Acts of discrimination against any student or staff member will not be tolerated.

### **Maintenance and Monitoring the Safety Plan:**

This COVID 19 Safety Plan is based on current recommendations and may change. VCA will be constantly reviewing and updating the COVID 19 Safety Plan according to the guidelines from the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the BC Centre for Disease Control, and WorkSafe BC to control and prevent the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

**If you have any question or concern about the safety on campus or about the Safety Plan, please contact the College by email or by phone:**

General Reception Phone: 250-598-5422

Email: [info@vca.ca](mailto:info@vca.ca)