

March 13, 2020

Dear AUArts Community;

As things move quickly in this health situation, I am updating you on the recent developments.

This afternoon I attended a post-secondary conference call with Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw. Dr. Hinshaw was very clear that based on her risk assessment at this time post-secondary institutions in Alberta should remain open. In order to understand how to reorganize large class sizes, three of Alberta's biggest universities (University of Calgary, University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge) were approved to **temporarily** suspend classes for one day only, Friday, March 13. Classes at all three universities are scheduled to resume on Monday, March 16. The Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services have been in close contact with all post-secondary institutions in the province, including AUArts, and they have instructed all post-secondary institutions to remain open and mitigate risk by cancelling large gatherings and events.

The critical message Dr. Hinshaw emphasized during the conversation and one we all need to adhere to was this, **"It is so important that everyone in the province recognizes that we all need to stay home when we are sick. We need to change our habits and this message needs to be crystal clear. If you are sick, stay home."**

Unsubstantiated Rumours

I need to address unsubstantiated rumours on campus versus verified fact. There are rumours circulating regarding a confirmed COVID-19 case in our AUArts community. In all instances of public health and COVID-19, Alberta Health Services and the Government of Alberta are the official, verified sources regarding confirmed and presumptive cases. At this time, **we have not received any public health notices of a confirmed or presumptive case** and we have not received any notifications of an increased risk to our community. The risk of exposure in the province is still assessed by AHS as low at this time.

If you believe you have been exposed, stay home and immediately contact AHS Help Link 811 to follow their instructions. It is imperative that if you are sick, you must stay home.

Travel Restrictions

On March 12, 2020 the Government of Alberta announced new measures to mitigate risk including regulation for travelers returning to Canada from any country: "Effective March 12, all Albertans who are currently outside the country are required to self-isolate on their return for 14 days, independent of the country they were visiting." As a result, effective immediately, AUArts has cancelled all university-related travel outside the country for faculty, staff and students including student travel award recipients. Anyone from our community

currently travelling outside Canada on business or personal leave is required to self-isolate for 14 days before being permitted to return to campus.

Anxiousness

Many of us are understandably anxious and concerned as this unprecedented situation unfolds. Please take care of yourself. We remind you that there are mental health resources available through your respective extended health benefit plans including the plan administered by the Students' Association. There are also many community resources, and Alberta Health Services lists several resources on their [website](#). We know people are looking to you for support and to share concerns, and that this can take a toll. I urge every member of our AUArts community to be supportive and kind to each other in our day-to-day interactions. As Mayor Nenshi said, "Clean hands, clear heads, open hearts".

Keep Informed

There is now a COVID-19 information page on our [website](#) and as always we encourage all members of our community to download and subscribe to AUArts Safe App.

I will continue to update you as the situation evolves.

Sincerely,
Daniel

Dr. Daniel Doz

President and CEO