

March 30, 2020

Dear AUArts Community;

Last week was our first full week of the return to classes. I am writing today to express my deepest thanks to all for making it happen. Being able to switch to alternate modes of delivery and working from home in such short notice and under such strenuous circumstances, is clear evidence of everyone's passion and dedication to the mission and responsibility of the University.

We all realize that our situation is not perfect, but neither is the world at the moment. As we are all staying at home, it is more than ever essential that we all find ways to stay in contact with our families, our friends and our neighbours.

I know many of you have questions. Please refer to our website for our recently posted FAQs, and the prior messages from myself and others. You can also email questions to covid19@auarts.ca.

The most common question people have is What can I do to help? We are reminded daily by Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, that the best thing we can do is practice physical distancing, wash our hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow, and avoid touching our face with unwashed hands.

These may seem like simple measures, but they are to be taken seriously. We just listened to Dr. Hinshaw announce more deaths in our province today. This is tragic news. As it takes some time for a person to develop COVID-19, we are putting the lives of many at risk if we are not strictly observing these public health measures.

Above all, stay safe and stay creative.

Sincerely,

Daniel

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