

March 31, 2020 Update

As information about COVID-19 develops and in accordance with the PSEA, WorkSafeBC, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC) and the Public Health Agency of Canada, Selkirk College will continue to monitor the progression of the virus and will continue to communicate relevant information in relation to COVID-19.

Exposure

If you have COVID-19, or think you might have it, please help prevent the spread by using the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) (you can complete the assessment for yourself or on behalf of someone else if they are unable to). The assessment will direct you on whether you require:

- Additional screening by calling 811 or your health care professional
- If you need to self-isolate for 10 days
- If you need to self-monitor and/or if you are able to return to your normal activities

For additional information about COVID-19, how to protect your family and your community please see the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

Sick Leave

If employees are ill or are required to self-isolate the Provincial Health Officer is asking employers to excuse staff for sick leave without requiring a medical note. Under these special circumstances, the normal collective agreement or employer policy requirements that employees provide medical documentation to access sick leave should not apply. Employers are encouraged to require a Self - Declaration form to be eligible for sick leave; if an employee is immune compromised or lives with someone who is please also have them complete the Immune Compromised Self-Declaration form. Employees should be directed to keep their employer updated regarding the status of any medical assessment or direction they receive from a qualified medical practitioner.

Returning to Work

The employee will likely not be able to return to work until at least 10 days have elapsed and symptoms have ceased (it is normal for the cough to last beyond 10 days, however, the employee can still return to work with a cough present). Before returning to work, employees should seek specific advice from their health care provider or by contacting the public health authority at 811. Where an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 they will be required to provide a medical clearance note prior to being permitted to return to work. If the employee is asymptomatic, or has mild symptoms, they may be able work remotely during the 10-day period, if this is the case, they will not need to access sick time for this period.

When Will the College Notify Others of Possible Exposure?

If an employee as a presumptive case or receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis the College will notify individuals who may have been in contact with the infected employee. It is important to note that being exposed to somebody who is symptomatic does not mean that self-isolation is necessary, the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) should be used to determine the necessity.