

COVID-19 update for December 30, 2021:

Recommendation for Jan 10/22 Start of Classes:

Post-secondary institutions are advised to delay the start of in-person instruction until Mon, Jan 10/22, where operationally feasible, in order to allow additional time to assess the impact of the Omicron variant and review plans for returning to campus after the winter break. BC's Provincial Health Officer (PHO) is supportive of this delay.

- Time sensitive programs including clinical or other experiential components, trades training and practicums may however begin as planned on Jan 4/22 with appropriate safety protocols in place.
- Post-secondary campuses will remain open and available to learners including student housing and student services.
- Based on experience in BC and internationally, educational settings are low-risk for COVID-19 transmission.

Public health continues to monitor COVID-19 closely to ensure that safety measures are informed by evolving evidence. In the event that the measures need to change, the PHO and AEST will discuss with post-secondary institutions immediately.