

TRENT FORWARD PLAN

Your Guide to a
Safe In-Person
Fall at Trent



Updated: June 2021



The Trent Forward plan is the road map to our return to in-person learning and physical campus services. As we prepare to welcome back students, faculty and staff for an in-person fall, the following priorities continue to guide our efforts:

A Safe and Healthy Trent

The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and community are foremost in our considerations as we re-open our campuses this fall for education and research.



The Trent Student Experience

We remain deeply committed to providing all our students – wherever they may be – with the high quality, engaging student experience they have come to expect at Trent.



A Role in the Post-COVID Future

Trent will be part of the solution as our communities confront the realities of COVID today and reimagine a better tomorrow.



The Context

With mass immunization well underway in the province and eligibility for vaccinations now open for all residents of Ontario aged 12 and over, there is confidence among public health authorities across the province that we can begin to plan for students, faculty and staff to be back on campus.

Trent has benefited from a strong collaborative relationship with Peterborough and Durham Public Health, and will continue to work closely with public health and community partners on return-to-campus plans.

Our Return to Campus

Trent is planning for a return to in-person learning at our campuses this fall in Peterborough and Durham.

Should different regulations and requirements be put in place, we will adapt. Read more about our contingency plans on page 6.

We also know that the situation surrounding COVID-19 is affecting communities around the world differently, which is why the University continues to expand online course options so those who need to take courses remotely can do so from wherever they are in the world.

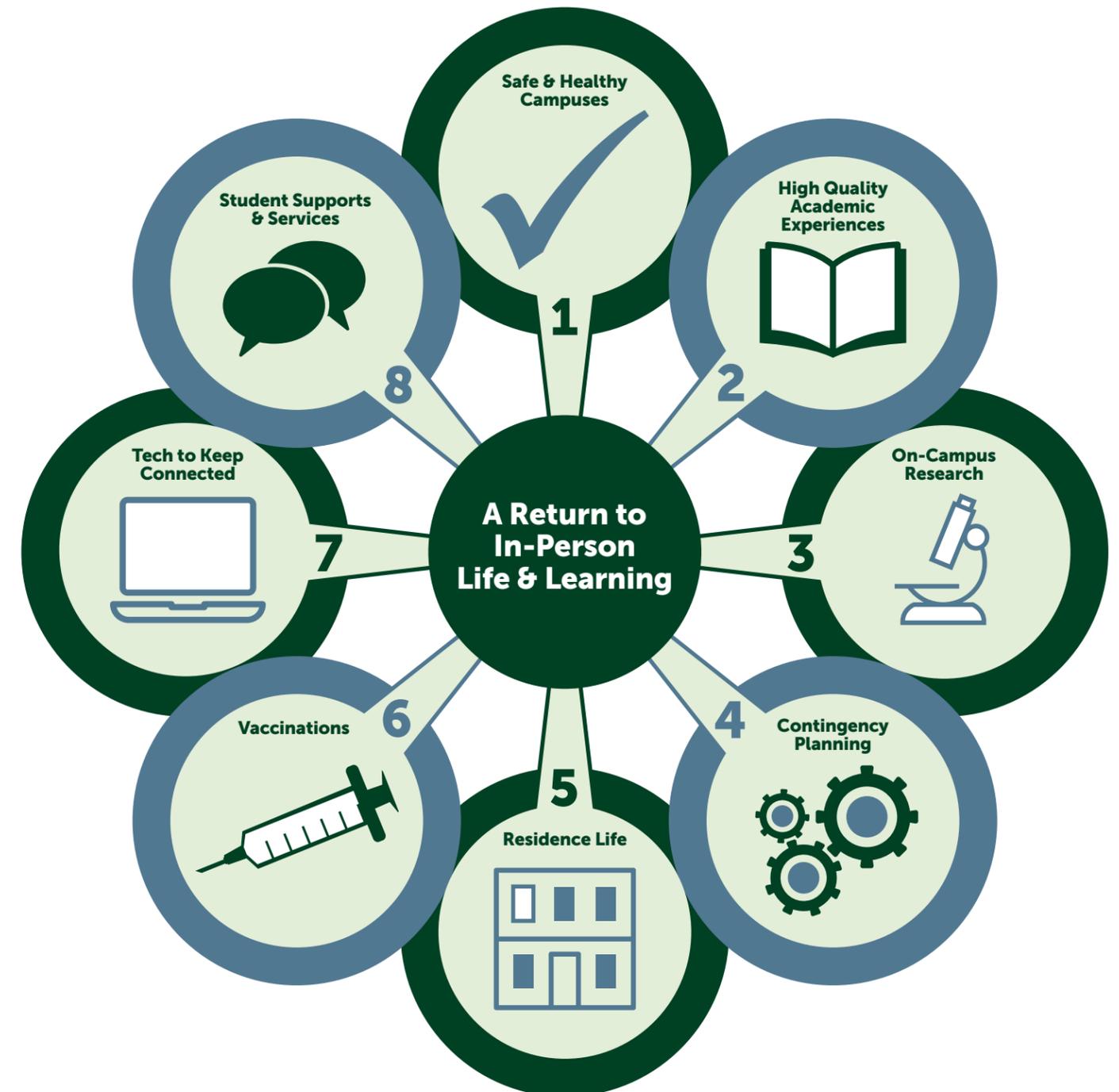


From the beginning, Trent University's response to the pandemic has been careful and measured, yet focused on a forward momentum. This updated Trent Forward Plan, guiding our return to in-person living and learning on campus in fall 2021, reflects that balanced approach. This year, we take a big step forward, in a way that emphasizes the student experience, teaching, research, and health and safety. I am looking forward to welcoming you all back this fall."

Leo Groarke, President & Vice-Chancellor

8 Elements for a Return to In-Person Life & Learning

Here's how we are planning for a safe in-person fall at both of our campuses.





Keeping Our Communities Healthy & Safe

Ensuring that our campuses offer a safe environment to live, work and learn underpins all our planning. Continuing to take guidance from public health officials, the following enhanced health and safety protocols will be in effect across both campuses this fall.



Health screening

Self-screening prior to arrival on campus using Trent's COVID-19 Screening Tool



Enhanced ventilation & air filtration

Investigating new air cleaning technologies; Completing air filter upgrades; 24-hour per day operation of existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, to keep fresh and filtered air circulating



Robust cleaning & sanitization

Enhanced cleaning of high-touch points across campus; Daily cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms using hydrostatic disinfectant spray; Sanitization stations and readily available disinfection supplies



On-campus vaccine clinics

Vaccines available for Trent students, staff and faculty



Vaccine requirement

For all students living in residence*
*Exemptions will be allowed on medical or other protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code.



On-campus testing

Student Health Services to conduct on-campus testing for students as needed



Wastewater surveillance

On-campus wastewater testing to assist with early detection



Partnering with Public Health

Work together to adapt to and implement any further additional public health requirements, which may include face masks and physical distancing



Alert app

All members of the Trent community encouraged to use the federal COVID-19 alert app



Delivering High-Quality Academic Experiences

Most courses will be delivered fully in-person at our campuses in Peterborough and Durham for the 2021/22 academic year. The exception will be course offerings specifically developed as online and hybrid courses.



Continuation of On-Campus Research

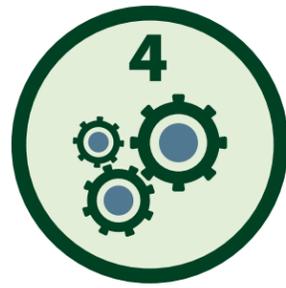
Recognizing the important role of research on our campuses, research labs and activities will continue to operate and be accessible for staff, faculty, grad students and tenants, guided by the Trent Forward Plan. In the case of contingency plans, and following public health guidelines, capacity limits for research spaces may be put in place.

As vaccine rollouts increase, the University anticipates in-person research with human participants will largely resume.

Research Travel

Faculty and student researchers are reminded to consult the [research guidelines for travel](#) regarding conducting research that involves travel to other regions.





Contingency Planning: We will be ready to adapt as needed

While we are confident in plans for an in-person fall, we know that the ability to pivot has been integral to maintaining quality education throughout the pandemic. To ensure we are prepared, we have three contingency plans (A, B and C) at the ready should Public Health restrictions require capacity limits in classrooms, maximum gathering size restrictions, or in the unlikely event we need to return to remote teaching and learning.



**Contingency Plan A:
Capacity Limits**
Assumes Public Health restrictions with physical distancing requirements and/or percent capacity limit on classrooms

- New "COVID capacities" of academic teaching spaces: capacities will vary by room layout.
- Large lectures will pivot to be offered remotely.
- Smaller classes, seminars, workshops and labs will be moved to larger academic teaching spaces where possible.
- Some components of courses will be required to pivot to remote offerings should appropriate space not be available.
- If changes come into effect after course registration, departments will work with students to ensure they have a conflict-free course schedule.
- Classes pivoting to remote delivery will keep their scheduled days/times to permit faculty and students to continue to meet synchronously over Zoom as set-up through Blackboard.
- The combination of in-person and remote classes may result in students having back-to-back class deliveries, requiring them to alternate between in-person and remote instruction. Some students may require extra time to transition between modes of delivery and faculty should expect some students may be delayed in joining classes.
- If Public Health restrictions are lifted during the term, remote courses may transition back to in person.



**Contingency Plan B:
Maximum Gathering Size Restrictions**
Assumes no physical distancing requirements

- As determined by Public Health guidelines, classes with enrolment over the maximum gathering size (e.g. 50 or 100) will pivot to remote delivery.
- Classes, seminars, and workshops with enrolment under the maximum gathering size will remain offered in-person on campus.
- Classes pivoting to remote delivery will keep scheduled days/times to permit faculty and students to continue to meet synchronously over Zoom as set-up through Blackboard.
- The combination of in-person and remote classes may result in students having back-to-back class deliveries, requiring them to alternate between in-person and remote instruction. Some students may require extra time to transition between modes of delivery and faculty should expect some students may be delayed in joining classes.
- If Public Health restrictions are lifted during the term, remote courses may transition back to in person.



**Contingency Plan C:
A return to remote teaching and learning**

- If public health restrictions go beyond physical distancing, reduced room capacity, or maximum gathering size restrictions, there may be a need to return to primarily remote delivery of courses and services, similar to the 2020/21 academic year.
- Currently there is no indication that this scenario is likely.

Planning for Exams

- Midterm and final examinations will follow all Public Health guidelines and restrictions.
- Mid-terms and final exam delivery should match course delivery: Remotely offered courses will offer remote midterms; in-person courses can offer in-person midterm exams.
- Students should be prepared to attend in-person exams or tests for any in-person or hybrid delivery courses. Students must contact their instructor immediately if they are unable to fulfill academic requirements and discuss any options for alternative arrangements.
- Student accommodations will be available through Student Accessibility Services.



Residence: Living on Campus

Living in residence can be a valuable part of the first-year student experience. Because of the reality of congregate living areas where people live closely together, in residence, the University is planning myriad protocols and initiatives to help minimize risk as we offer a positive residence experience for new students at both Trent campuses.

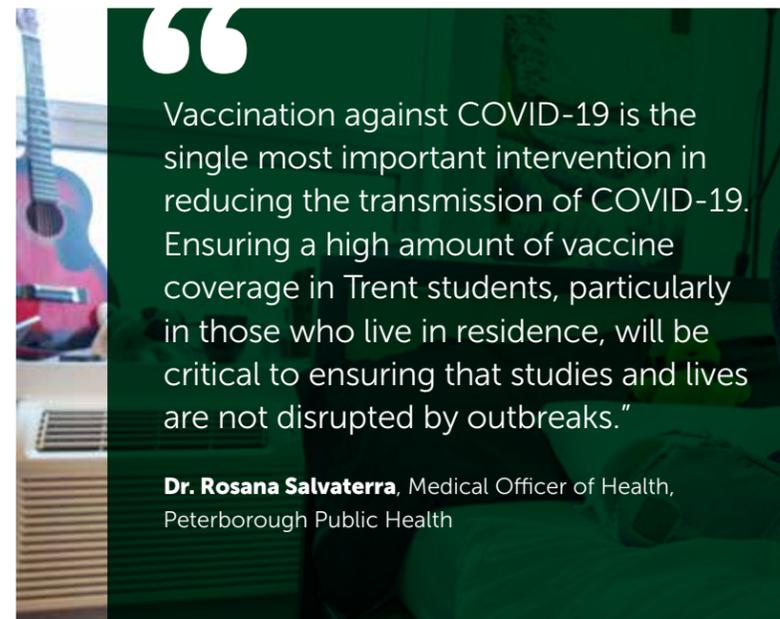
- Single occupancy rooms only in Durham; mainly singles, with some doubles, in Peterborough
- Required off-campus quarantine for arriving international students, who will transition to campus once quarantine is complete
- Connecting students with residence communities early virtually, with pre-arrival orientation for residence students that includes safety tips and expectations
- Extending and staggering the move-in period to avoid large numbers of students and families coming to campus at the same time
- A designated isolation space on campus, where students can be supported should they become ill during the academic year, added as an added precaution
- Limits on gathering sizes, as directed by public health guidelines



Vaccinations

A new vaccine requirement for all residence students requires students to have at least one dose – and if possible, two doses – of a COVID-19 vaccine before moving to campus. Students who are unable to receive a vaccine prior to arrival will be supported by Housing Services and the University to obtain their first dose within 14 days of moving into residence. Exemptions will be allowed on medical or other protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

All members of the Trent community are encouraged to get vaccinated prior to returning to campus this fall. Vaccine clinics for students, staff and faculty will be available on campus.



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Vaccination against COVID-19 is the single most important intervention in reducing the transmission of COVID-19. Ensuring a high amount of vaccine coverage in Trent students, particularly in those who live in residence, will be critical to ensuring that studies and lives are not disrupted by outbreaks.”

Dr. Rosana Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health,
Peterborough Public Health





Tech to Keep You Connected

Information Technology will return to offering in-person service desk supports at both campuses. The Service Desk can be found on the second floor of the Bata Library in Peterborough and at the Durham Campus library.

Trent's virtual Computing Commons will also continue, providing students and faculty with access to a remote Windows Virtual Desktop that includes a suite of software applications necessary to support teaching and learning. Blackboard will continue to be pivotal in the learning experience. To keep our community connected, Zoom web conferencing, MS Teams and G-Suite will continue to be available.



Supports & Services for Students

New and returning students will have access to Trent's full suite of wrap-around supports and services this fall, subject to public health guidelines and requirements. A few highlights and expanded offerings include:

- **Re-Orientation for returning students** – for second-year students who may have been studying remotely to get acquainted with all that in-person learning and student life on Trent's campuses have to offer.
- New students are getting a **head start on connecting with other students and upper-year mentors** to help prepare for fall through Summer Connect and New Student Orientation.
- **Fall orientation** will introduce new students to the benefits of studying in-person following a year of mainly virtual learning.
- **In-person supports**, including face-to-face appointments, for academic advising, academic skills peer support, counselling and wellness services, Careerspace, First Peoples House of Learning, Trent International.
- **In-person connections and activities** through Trent's Colleges, as well as student clubs and groups, and student associations.
- **Virtual services and resources** to support students who may be studying remotely or difficultly getting to campus.
- **Reopening of the Trent Athletics Centre** in Peterborough for in-person athletics and recreation offerings with ongoing virtual initiatives (eSports and online fitness and wellness classes). A safe return to varsity sport is also planned, following announcements from Ontario University Athletics (OUA).



Faculty and Staff: Return to Campus

As we enter this next phase of the Trent Forward plan, faculty and staff can similarly expect to return to work on campus in the fall.

Departments will be required prepare plans based on health and safety guidelines and best practices, how to adapt to any potential restrictions, and where appropriate, a phased return that prioritizes student-facing services and roles. More details will be shared with managers to help prepare these plans.

Faculty Planning: Additional Information

Faculty can review the **FALL 2021 & WINTER 2022 TEACHING DECISION FRAMEWORK** for more details on academic planning for the upcoming academic year.

Staff Planning

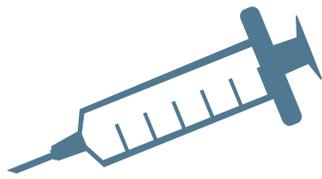
Managers and supervisors will connect with their teams to discuss return to campus plans and next steps.



Personal Accountability

Working Together is Key to Our Success

All members of the campus community must be vigilant and follow public health advice. Our successful return to campus, and the continued loosening of restrictions, relies on individuals to take personal responsibility to:



Get vaccinated



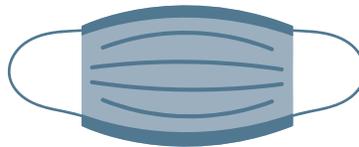
Self-screen before coming to campus and stay home when sick



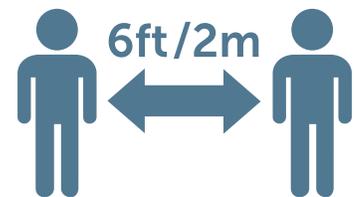
Adhere to policies and procedures that keep us all safe and healthy



Practice good respiratory hygiene and handwashing practices



Wear appropriate face coverings when required



Practice physical distancing as required

Keep up-to-date.
Visit trentu.ca/trentforward

