

November 3, 2021

Dear Professor Smith:

I have asked Professor Safai to forward your questions of October 31, 2021 to me for response so that she can continue to be focused on the next steps and actions required to continue to keep our campus safe as we gradually increase the amount of on-campus activity.

Since the onset of the pandemic, York has been focussed on ensuring the health and safety of our community. We have put in place a multi-layered pandemic response that includes vaccines as only one of many important components. I would refer you to the [Better Together](#) website, which sets out the wide variety of health and safety measures that the University has put into place. These measures have all been developed in compliance with Provincial regulatory requirements and orders, City of Toronto directives and by-laws, guidance from Public Health as well as Reopening Ontario sector-specific guidance.

The health and safety of our community remains our top priority, and the matters of [air quality and airborne transmission](#), [vaccination mandate](#), and [masking](#), that are raised in your questions, are all addressed to varying degrees in the Better Together website.

The University's communications regularly provide updated information and advice, and direction to the York community regarding the University's health and safety measures in relation to the pandemic. These communications may not always provide the level of detail that you are seeking, but this in no way diminishes the University's communication efforts or the enormous and detailed planning, preparation and implementation of safety measures that meet or exceed Provincial guidelines and that are conveyed in those communications.

Since the beginning of the pandemic there has been some level of campus activity, which over the course of time has increased. Through this time, there has yet to be a COVID-19 outbreak on campus. We will not be complacent or let our guard down, but the fact remains that to date our actions have had the desired results.

With respect to your question regarding academic freedom, it is always the case that the University would uphold a member's academic freedom in a manner consistent with Article 10 of the collective agreement.

Please continue to visit the [Better Together](#) website for the most current information about the University's plans to ensure a safe return to campus.

Sincerely,



Lisa Philipps
Provost & Vice-President Academic