

**August 10, 2021**

Prof. Alan Shepard  
President, Western University  
Office of the President  
Stevenson Hall, Suite 2107  
London, ON N6A 5B8

Dear President Shepard,

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support in increasing safety and reducing the transmission of COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically impacted the Middlesex-London community. Substantial COVID-19 transmission has been seen amongst the post-secondary community, greatly effecting student and campus life. This risk has been highlighted by outbreaks amongst post-secondary students and the fact that the highest number of cases has been amongst those aged 20-29, followed by those under the age of 19.

Fortunately, the COVID-19 vaccine is now readily available. Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the single most important intervention in reducing the transmission of COVID-19, ensuring safe learning and social environments, and protecting students, staff, and faculty.

To support a safe return to campus this fall, the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) strongly supports all efforts to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination. This includes policies that require all members of a post-secondary community who present to campus to be either fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or participate in a serial and frequent rapid COVID-19 testing program. Additionally, the MLHU is strongly supportive of mandatory vaccination for attendees of higher-risk environments on post-secondary campuses, such as physical fitness facilities and music classrooms, with exceptions only for human rights reasons such as physician-diagnosed anaphylaxis, or pastor-confirmed religious beliefs.

High vaccine uptake in Middlesex-London, including amongst post-secondary communities, will be essential to ensure a safe and healthy autumn. The MLHU is thankful for your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of students, staff, and faculty, and your support of the pandemic response in the Middlesex and London community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health



Alexander Summers, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC  
Associate Medical Officer of Health