

Dear Queens Community,

In view of the rapidly spreading omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus, Queens University is moving to [campus alert level 3](#). This means we are seeing a rapid increase in Covid-19 cases and community spread in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. We anticipate cases will continue to rise throughout the week as more and more people are tested for Covid-19.

Rather than begin our full, in-person spring semester on Monday, January 10th as anticipated, for the first week of the semester, all classes will be virtual. All employees who can work remotely should do so. In-person classes will resume as scheduled on Tuesday, January 18th.

Our decision to spend the first week of the semester virtually was not determined lightly. Factors driving the decision include rising cases all over the country coupled with increases in exposures among our own community members. The virtual week allows Queens community members additional time to quarantine after the holidays so we can best care for and support you as you return to campus.

In addition to shifting all undergraduate and graduate school courses to virtual modalities for one week, we are delaying the opening of our residence halls so we can stagger residential student arrivals to improve our support of students returning to campus.

**FOR STUDENTS:**

**Students currently on campus may remain on campus. Spring sport athletes and international students may arrive on campus as scheduled. All other residential students should plan to arrive on campus on Sunday, January 16th.** If you need to arrive on campus prior to January 16th, you must request an exception and make a move-in appointment with housing and residential life by emailing [reslife@queens.edu](mailto:reslife@queens.edu).

Any residential student who arrives on January 16th or later will be credited for room and board charges for January 9th – January 16th. This credit will appear on your account by March 1. If you are a residential student who arrives on campus prior to January 16th, you will be fully charged for housing and meals.

We are still requiring all students, faculty, and staff to have a negative covid test within 48 hours of returning to campus. If you are unable to obtain a test off-campus, we will have testing clinics in the Levine Center Lobby at the following times:

- Sunday, January 16th, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Monday, January 17th, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**For students who do test positive for Covid-19, or those who have had confirmed exposure to someone with Covid-19, we ask that if you are able to isolate or quarantine at home, please do so. Isolation and quarantine space on campus are limited and if we exhaust all of the available space, we will need to move to a "shelter in place" practice for all residential students.**

We continue to monitor this rapidly changing environment and will send messages via SpecialQNews. We know these are not the ideal circumstances for any of us to begin 2022. We will continue to manage all aspects of the pandemic in order to keep our community as safe as possible. Here's to a healthy 2022.

Stay well,

Senior Leadership Team

Dan Lugo

Sarah Fatherly

Rich Majerus

Mary Alice Boyd

Maria Flores

Cherie Swarthout

Jen Eriksen

Adrienne Oddi