



July 21, 2021

Dr. Charlotte Yates  
President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Guelph  
50 Stone Rd E.  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 2W1

Dear Dr. Yates,

I am writing to recommend in the strongest possible terms that the University of Guelph require a full (two-dose) course of COVID-19 vaccines for all students living in residence during the 2021-22 school year. Additionally, the University should continue to recommend strongly that all other students, faculty and staff receive both doses of the vaccine.

Students beginning or returning to their studies this fall are looking forward to a safe and relational post-secondary experience. Adding this significant layer of protection will help create a more normal fall on campus. Strong vaccination rates across the University are an important part of student physical and mental well-being, and should contribute peace of mind to all Gryphons.

The University of Guelph has been a vital partner and champion throughout this pandemic. Over 75,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered at the University of Guelph. This has had a profound impact on our ability to protect not just campus, but our whole region. Requiring vaccinations for students living in residence is consistent with the best current scientific understanding of COVID-19 and the University's mission to improve life. Making this a requirement in residence will help all members of campus return to a more normal campus experience and avoid a serious surge in cases this fall, especially in these congregate settings.

I am grateful that you and your leadership team continue to prioritize campus safety and a safer Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph community. My team stands ready to help ensure every member of the campus community has access to their first and second dose before the start of the semester.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicola Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health and CEO