To the UTM community,

In the past weeks, public health authorities have confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the UTM campus.

You can track these cases on UofT’s Dashboard, which is updated weekly, and describes the protocols UTM follows to protect your health. UTM’s senior team is working hard to strengthen and streamline our campus response as we learn from each case.

I write to explain part of that response in greater detail, and to answer the question: when will the UTM community receive a notification about a positive (or possible) case of COVID-19?

The answer has several parts. The process of contact tracing—identifying, informing, and instructing people who came in direct contact with a known or possible case of COVID-19—is coordinated by experts at Peel or Toronto Public Health in collaboration with U of T’s Occupational Health and Safety office.

To support the work of public health, and following expert advice, UTM is taking great care over our community notifications. We don’t want to alarm people who are not at risk or send so many messages that folks start to “switch off.” We want to encourage awareness and adherence to public health safety measures and to encourage testing when it matters most. And we’re obliged by law to preserve individual medical confidentiality.

So, while we’ll track cases on the dashboard, UTM sends a community notification only if a positive or possible case of COVID-19 affects the operations of multiple facilities, spaces, and units across campus. These notifications do not signal elevated risk or demand special action. They are intended to reassure you that the contacts of someone from campus who has or may have COVID-19 have been traced; that any affected facilities have been cleaned; and that the campus is open and safe.

Notifications should also remind you to take the steps you should always take to keep safe during the pandemic. Maintain social distance; wear a mask; wash your hands frequently; monitor yourself for symptoms; and use the UCheck assessment portal.

If you have any concerns or questions about COVID-19 notifications at UTM, please contact Jane Stirling, Executive Director of Communications, at jane.stirling@utoronto.ca.

I hope you all get some rest this weekend.

Best,
Alex

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