



ASSOCIATION OF EMPLOYEES SUPPORTING EDUCATION SERVICES

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Proud Member of the Confederation of Canadian Unions

June 23, 2020

Ms. Darlene Smith
Associate Vice-President (Human Resources)
309 Administration Bldg.
University of Manitoba

Dear Ms. Smith:

As the Province continues to take further steps to expand businesses that may re-open during the COVID-19 pandemic, AESES understands that the University is also considering when and how to begin a re-opening of the campuses.

We are pleased to see that the University is undertaking this with care and has formed the COVID-19 Recovery Working Group to manage the cautious exploration of when and how to open operations. However, given the high transmissibility of this virus, and the devastating effects it can potentially have should someone contract COVID-19, we have questions for the University regarding the safety and wellbeing of our members.

1. Is the University working with government health officials and/or following government health guidelines for re-opening?
2. What are the health guidelines that are being followed to ensure the safety of staff and students?
3. Once an area is cleared for re-opening, will there be supplies of cleaning products, hand sanitizers, and face masks for those who require them, along with appropriate COVID-19 barriers for staff who deal with students and/or the public?
4. Will the University be providing specialized PPE for those likely to experience extended physical contact with students and/or the public?
5. What are the standards for the maximum number of people permitted in a space and how is that space defined?
6. What safety training will be provided to staff prior to a return?
7. Will there be an online resource dedicated to returning to the workplace and communicating the expected standards for safety at work?
8. How is the University going to manage medically vulnerable or high-risk staff?
9. Who in the Health & Safety Office will be managing compliance of these new safety standards?

AESES would like to be informed in advance of any re-opening in areas where our members are being returned to work. Our members have already been contacting us with questions about safe returns and knowing in advance which areas are re-opening will be helpful and will avoid us contacting the University unnecessarily in this regard. Also, should Manitoba encounter a setback in community transmission rates or a second wave of the virus, we hope that the University will implement a method to expeditiously notify AESES if a further lockdown is determined to be necessary.

Finally, we have been receiving numerous calls from members concerned about on-going childcare responsibilities. How will parents be supported if the schools and daycares are not open when staff are asked to return to their physical offices?

AESES would be pleased to work with the University in ensuring that communications are reaching our members advising them of return to work safety expectations. If you feel there are ways we can partner in this regard, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie R. Morris".

Laurie R. Morris
President
AESES

/lm