Dear residence students,

We are writing to provide an update regarding the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Today, two additional positive cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Watts Hall. The impacted individuals and their households have been isolated, and were tested on-site today. Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Public Health (KFLAPH) will be conducting their contact tracing investigation per their usual process.

We are continuing with the process of floors isolating in place where possible, pending the negative test result of an associated high-risk contact. Most households that have been required to isolate have been able to do so in their own rooms and the isolation period has been quite brief, (typically 24-48 hours), due to quick turnaround times for test results.

In the current context of the outbreak, we expect that this situation will remain fluid over the coming days and you can expect that floors may be required to isolate. Specifically, a number of off-campus cases were confirmed today, KFLAPH is still conducting contact tracing which may result in more isolation requirements tomorrow.

This is a critical time where your individual actions can have significant benefit Please limit your contacts, don’t attend off-campus parties and stick to your household.

Our teams have been on campus today and we’ve noted very little inappropriate social activity and we appreciate your efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 by staying in your households. It’s so important that you continue to be vigilant tonight and for the remainder of the term to limit further spread, given the rise in case counts and the confirmed presence in the community of COVID-19 variants.

As a precaution, the ARC has ceased operations until further notice, affecting all in-person programming. The ARC will continue to provide virtual fitness programs and on-demand workouts given the importance of physical health and well-being.

Today, KFLAPH also announced the extension of the Class Order pursuant to Section 22 of the Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act, through to April 30, 2021 which limits indoor and outdoor gatherings to 5 people.

We appreciate your continued compliance and flexibility as we navigate the outbreak, please reach out for supports if you need them, a number of resource links are listed below. We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

The Residence Life and Services Team

Mental Health Supports: Good2Talk, Empower Me, book an appointment with a counsellor at Student Wellness Services
Physical activity: Virtual Fitness Programs, On-demand workouts
COVID-19 testing: Student Wellness Services, Kingston Assessment Centre (at Beechgrove)
Academic supports: SASS, request academic consideration through your faculty/program website