July 28, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Yates:

RE: COVID-19 Vaccines for Students, Faculty, and Staff During the 2021-2022 School Year at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

I am writing to recommend in the strongest possible terms that the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus 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 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.

This will have a profound impact on our ability to protect not just campus, but our municipality as a whole. 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 Chatham-Kent. 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,

W. David Colby, MSc., MD, FRCP (C)  
Medical Officer of Health  
CK Public Health