

COVID-19: Ryerson's Response

April 7, 2020

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President and Vice-Chancellor

**Ryerson
University**



Ryerson University's Goals

1. Limit potential spread of COVID-19 by protecting our faculty, staff, and students and their families
2. Ensure our students can successfully complete their year and that essential SRC activity continues
3. Work with our partners and governments to find solutions and ideas to assist with impacts arising from COVID-19

Ryerson COVID-19 Governance

- Executive Group (EG) meeting six days a week to review new developments, identify new risks and opportunities
- Public Health Threats Committee
- Emergency Response Team
- Pan-University Communications Group
- VPAO Team documenting all aspects of our work
- Regular updates and collaboration with Senate and the Board of Governors

Timeline

March 12	Decided to cancel all university events, limit travel
March 13	Announced changes to courses, cancellation of in-person exams
March 17	Shifted to essential services
March 17	Announced residences closing with exceptions for some students
March 20	Estimate that 95% of staff working from alternate locations
March 23	All courses operating through alternate delivery mechanisms

Supporting Students, Faculty and Staff



Supporting Students and Faculty

- All in-person classes and exams suspended and delivered in alternative virtual formats until further notice
- Faculty members asked to find alternative forms of assessment
- Senate Priorities Committee approved increased flexibility for program delivery



Supporting Students and Faculty

Continuity of Learning Team Chang School, Library, CCS and CETL

Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching has developed a *Continuity of Teaching* guide for faculty, *Continuity of Learning* guide for students

Keep Teaching Taskforce

Resources for Students

Support to Student Life

Residence

- Students asked to leave residence by Monday, March 23 (Rebate to students for 5 weeks of housing and meals)
- Students with exceptional circumstances allowed to remain (108 students)
- Will continue to be supported by Housing and Residence Life Team



Supporting Students

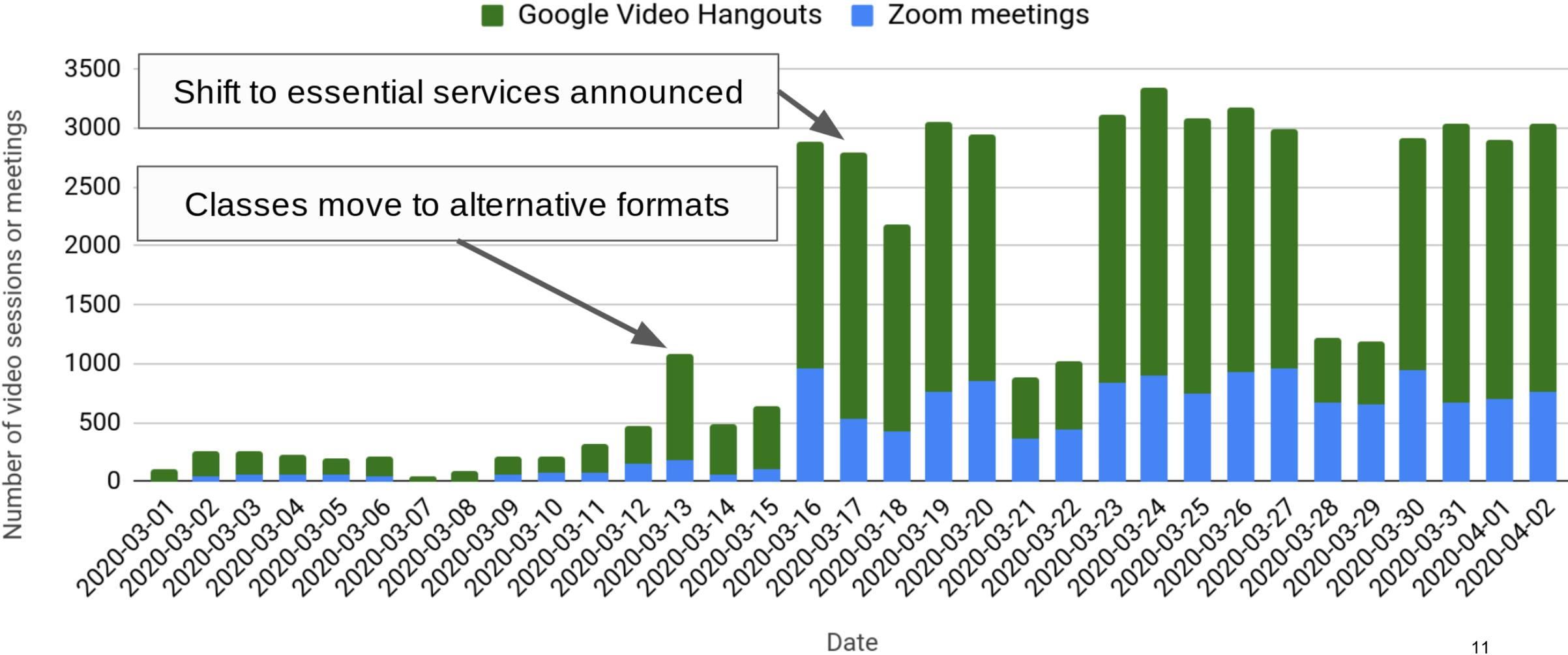
- Ryerson Student Relief Fund
- Medical Centre now virtual
- Centre for Student Development and Counselling (CSDC) moved to virtual support system



Supporting Staff and Faculty

- Shifted decision making to local leaders
- Goal of maximizing flexibility for alternate work arrangements
- Emphasizing available mental health and wellness services
 - Exploring additional services for staff who are not covered by benefits plan

Meetings/Webinars and Video Hangouts

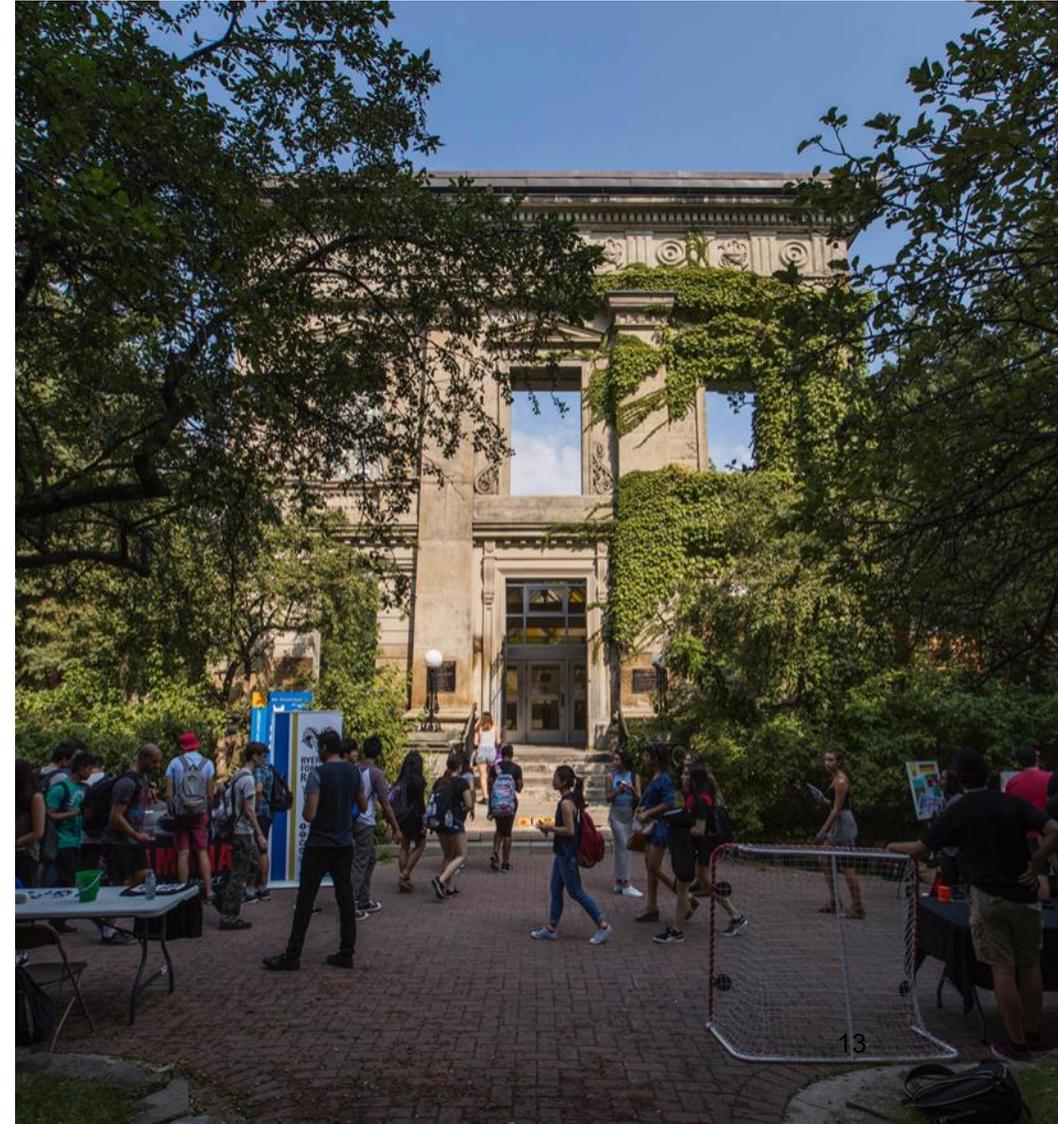




Working with Government and Partners

Working with Government and Partners

- Pivoted from discussing our requests to:
 - Acknowledging the challenges of these difficult times and thanking people for their public service
 - Providing recommendations on how Ryerson can contribute to economic recovery efforts and pandemic migration efforts

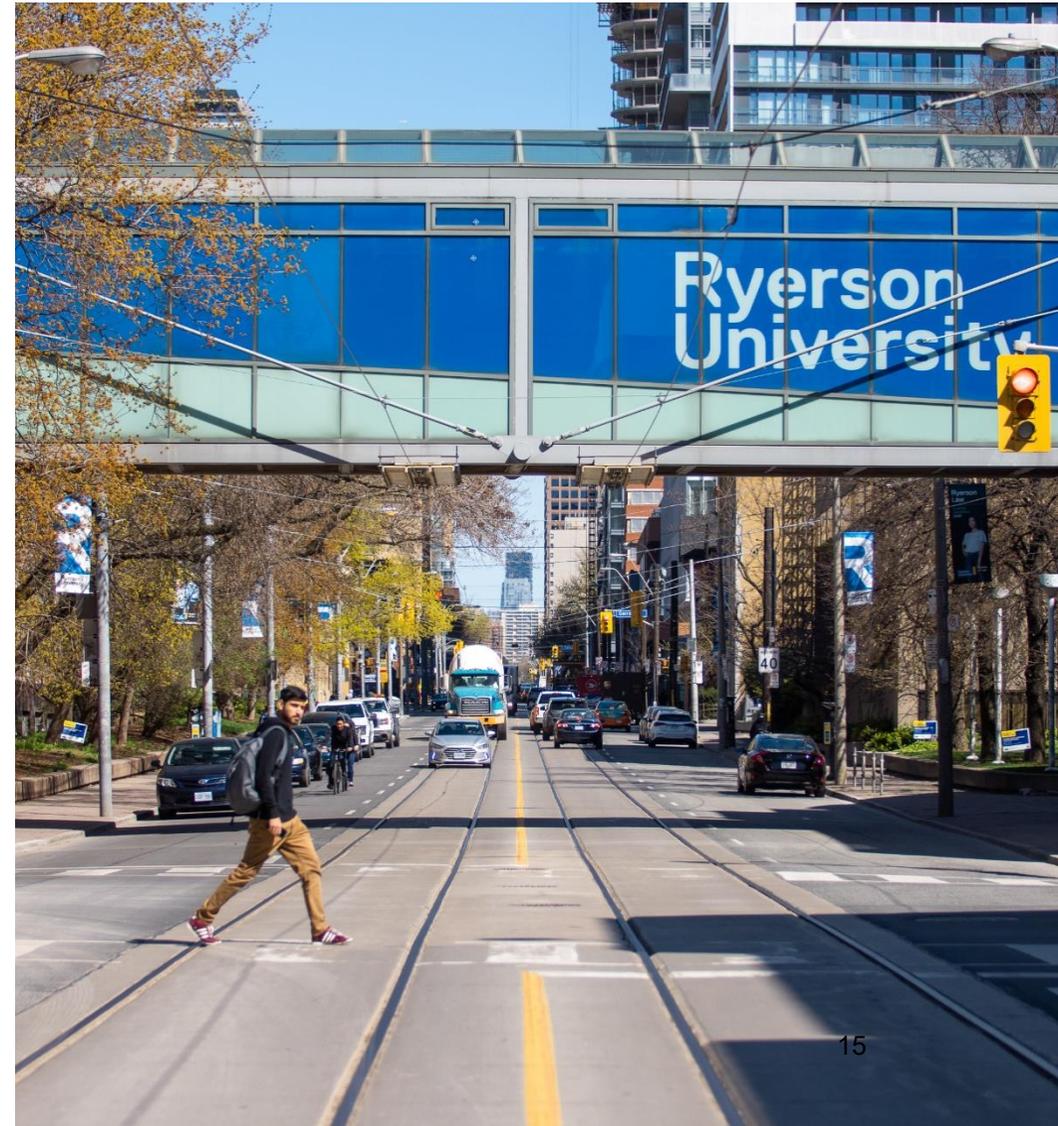


Working with Government and Partners

- Providing high-level suggestions to the Mayor
- Proposal submitted to the Ontario government
- Participating on calls with the federal government
- Emphasizing:
 - Providing a continuum of educational, retraining and skills for displaced workers online
 - Mobilizing Ryerson's Magnet platform
 - Providing expertise and services to small businesses

Working with Government and Partners

- Dialogue continues across the university on finding other ways to support the government
- Implementation team will be established to move the ideas into operation
- All the time new partnerships and potential partnerships are developing



Supporting Healthcare Workers

- **Department of Chemistry and Biology labs** have donated 79,000 medical gloves, goggles and gowns to Toronto hospitals
- **The Creative Technology Lab at FCAD** is working with hospitals on the development of prototypes for face masks and face shields. Expected to produce:
 - 75 3-D printed headpieces/day
 - 350 casted headpieces/day
 - 325 laser-cut plastic shields/day, and
 - 250 face masks/day

Supporting Healthcare Workers

- Discussions underway with two separate hospitals with regard to providing space in Ryerson residence building
- Exploring ways to utilize / re-purpose space on campus
 - MAC large gyms and rink surface
 - State of the art nursing labs in the DCC



COVID-19 Scholarly, Research and Creative Activity (SRC)



COVID-19 Related SRC

John Marshall	Development of a mass spectrometry based COVID-19 diagnostic assay
Xiao Ping Zhang	Modeling and prediction of Covid-19 outbreak
Patrick Neumann	Modelling and minimising the impacts of infection control routines on nurse workload in acute care under varying outbreak scenarios
Lu Wang	Spatial and social patterning of COVID-19 prevention and transmission in Canada: Investigating the impacts of risk perception and preventive behaviour on individual activity space
Josephine Wong	PROTECH - Pandemic rapid-response optimization to enhance community-resilience and health
Anatoliy Gruzd	Inoculating against an infodemic: Microlearning interventions to address CoV misinformation
Charlotte Lee	Destigmatizing Chinese communities in the face of COVID-19: Emergency management actions to address social vulnerability in Toronto and Nairobi
Jordan Tustin	The paradox of precaution: Examining public health COVID-19 outbreak management strategies
Lixia Yang 	Mobilizing the Chinese immigrant community and battling the potential COVID-19 outbreak in the GTA: Gathering essential information, creating a mutual support quarantine network and assessing psychological impacts

Next Steps

- Actively monitoring a rapidly changing environment
- Identifying activities and projects that might be “at risk” to develop appropriate contingencies
- Continuing to look for opportunities with partners, communities and government

Questions?