



Policy Sprint

Public Health Stream



Prompt

University of Toronto announced earlier this year that it would allow for fall programming to resume in-person. While vaccinations have been mandated and social distancing enforced, individuals who are at-risk or immunocompromised are still in danger of being infected by COVID-19 at higher rates than average. Given this situation, equitable policy needs to be made to ensure that these students are not put at risk for contracting COVID-19. Please write a policy brief delineating how the school should approach giving these individuals the same access to the university's resources while keeping them safe. Please be sure to include how your brief upholds the Ontario Human Rights Code.



Executive Summary

University of Toronto's response to COVID-19 has been an important issue which the school has taken many measures to address. While strict guidelines are currently in place to ensure the safety of all students, more can be done to support those who are at greater risk than the general public. The guidelines currently set out by the university are not flexible enough to accommodate the needs of such students. Since the university creates all of its policies in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code, it is necessary that every part of this code be upheld. The concepts outlines in this code should be compared to the COVID-19 policies imposed by the University of Toronto's Environmental Health and Safety division to see if they are in agreement with each other.



Introduction

The Environmental Health and Safety division at the University of Toronto publishes and updates its COVID-19 guidelines frequently. It has published documents relating to many parts of university life, including in-person teaching, workplace guidelines, and vaccination requirements (link will be provided). As members of the community, it is necessary that we analyze these documents in-depth to make sure they are serving the purpose they are intending and not unintentional discriminating against any groups of people. Please make sure to cite both the policy documents set out by the university and the Ontario Human Rights Code in writing your brief.



The task

- You will be individually creating research briefs
- Write one research brief suggesting three policies that can address the prompt
 - Refer to sample template
- Be sure to consider the Ontario Human Rights Code and the university's COVID-19 policies
- Ask any questions you may have
- Be ready to discuss your brief



Pitching Period

Tell everyone about your ideas!