



Testing at a post-secondary institution during a pandemic

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NCTA webinar
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Presentation Outline

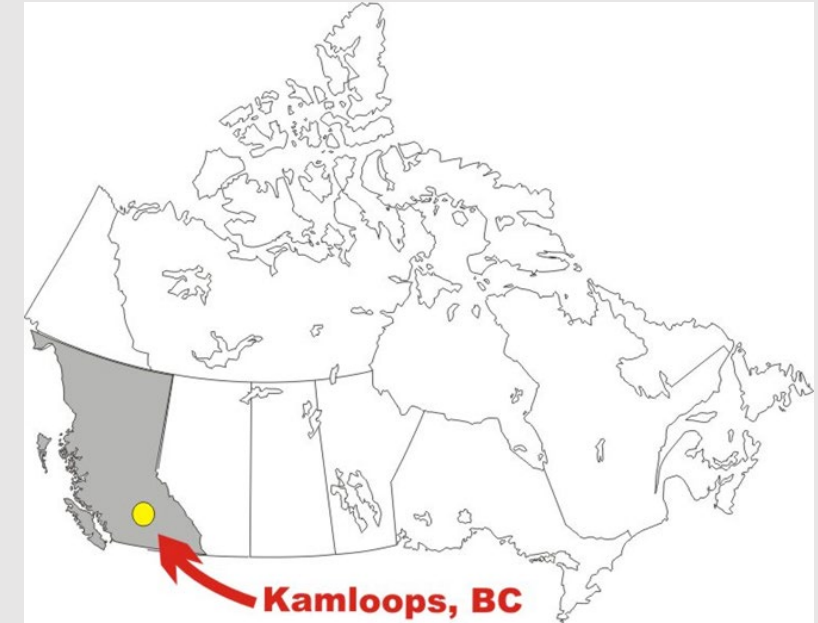
- Context: TRU & Assessment Centre
- Phase One reopening (May 2020)
- Proposed Phase Two (June – August 2020)
- Q & A



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

A comprehensive, public university offering certificates, diplomas, baccalaureate and masters degrees in various disciplines

- The main campus including is located in Kamloops, BC
- Serve ~ 30, 000 students



COVID-19

- Late March moved to virtual services & learning
- Campus remained open (selected buildings only)
- Limited cases in the Interior of BC (as of June 1st)

195 total confirmed, 2 deaths and 1 currently hospitalized

TRU Assessment Centre (Pre-COVID 19)

Space - Modified classroom

- 1 larger testing room + 2 private rooms
- 10 computer stations + 3 large tables

Staff

- FT Coordinator
- One full-time clerk
- One part-time clerk (.6)
- Auxiliary

Activity

- Administer or facilitate over 3300 assessments /year
- Respond to 18, 000 emails, phone calls or walk-ins/year



Testing Activity

- Admissions Testing - various program
- Placement Testing - UPrep & ESAL
- Personal Assessments – SII, MBTI & EQ-i
- External Testing – testing site for over 110 different agencies & institutions

Format

- Individual appointments
- Group sessions



Testing March 23, 2020



Phase One (May 2020)

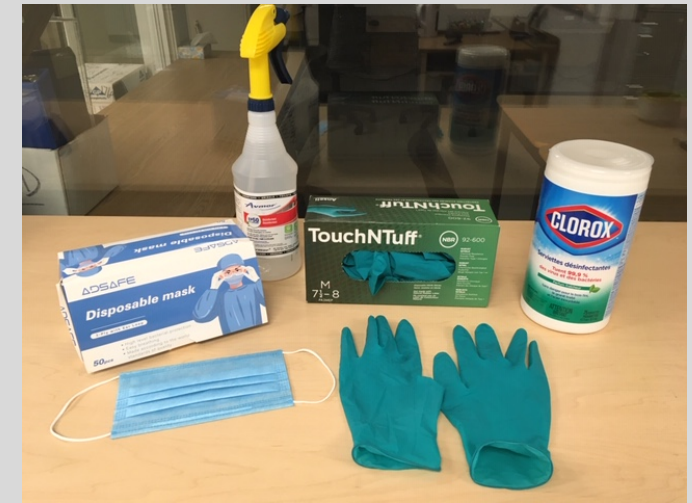
To adhere to social distancing and other health regulations related to the pandemic, testing activities follow strict protocols.

- Hours of operation are limited, with testing scheduled for mornings only
- A maximum of 5 candidates tested at a time, with appointment times offset
- Candidates supply and wear a non-medical mask during the testing session
- Hand sanitizing required
- Testing limited to internal candidates

Phase One (continued)

- Plexi-glass installed – Front Counter
- Maximum of two staff members working at one time
- Wearing masks optional for staff
- Candidates not tested if they appear ill

Modifications to the Centre



Registration Procedure

- Contacted clients who were scheduled to test in March/April
- Contacted clients referred by different areas (high priority)
- Registration via email only (for now)
- Two options: F2F or virtual proctoring
- Fees paid online only

Testing Procedure

- Clients arrived 15 minutes apart to avoid overlap
- Clients use hand sanitizer before entry Centre
- Clients show their ID through plexi-glass
- Clients put on masks and enter testing room

Testing Procedure

- Computers are ready so clients can begin testing immediately
- Follow ACCUPLACER Instruction Sheet
- Monitor test through lockdown browser (Faronics Insight)
- Signal students when they can leave
- Print score report from our computers & give to client
- Use gloves and sanitizer to clean each station

Issues & Comments

- No shows
- Not following protocols
- Increase anxiety levels for clients
- Accommodations
- Increase in requests for virtual sessions



Reflections

- Staff buy in is critical
- Communication is crucial

Students – being on time, wearing masks

TRU & community – adhering to protocols

This is the *NEW NORMAL*

Proposed Phase Two (June – August 2020)

Increase testing capacity slowly

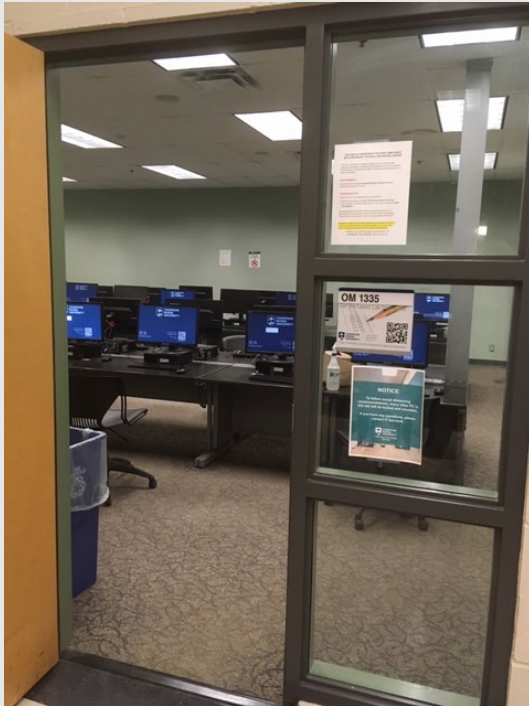
- Extend hours
- Use computer labs & classrooms

Expand testing services to external clients

- Individual
- Groups

Group testing in a computer lab

- Entry assessment testing once a week in computer lab
- Applicants would register & pay online
- Capacity for the computer lab is 40, but testing limited to 15 candidates
- Establish a waiting area in adjacent lab with markers laid out to ensure social distancing



Group testing in a computer lab (continued)

- Students must supply and wear mask
- Student store personal items in a ziplock bag (only bring min.)
- Students check in one by one
- Students show their ID and sanitize their hands
- Students go to an assigned testing station and begin testing
- When finished, students leave one at a time
- Candidates not tested if they appear ill
- Two staff members work in the lab at the same time
- All testing stations sanitized after testing

Group testing in a classroom

- Capacity for available classrooms is 24; testing limited to 10 candidates
- Establish a waiting area in hallway with markers laid out to ensure social distancing



Group testing in a classroom (continued)

- Students check in outside the classroom
- Student store personal items in a ziplock bag (only bring minimum)
- Students must show their ID and sanitize their hands
- Students sit at assigned table, wait for others to check in
- When finished, students leave one at a time
- All testing tables sanitized following testing
- Two staff members oversee testing
- Sessions limited to once or twice a week



Testing in the Centre

Testing in computer labs and classrooms would allow for other testing in the Centre, following similar protocols:

- Hours of testing limited, **but Centre opened longer**
- A maximum of **6 candidates** tested at a time, with appointment times offset
- Candidates supply and wear a non-medical mask
- Candidates use the hand sanitizing station before entering the Centre
- Candidates not tested if they appear ill
- Two staff members working in the Centre, **others working in lab or classroom**

Objectives of phased approach

- Re-establish pre COVID 19 procedures
- Increase capacity to 50% or higher of Pre COVID
- Generate some revenue
- Prepare for future expansion of services in the fall



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Q & A

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