To: Dr. Erika Paterson

From: Han Li

Date: February 15th, 2022

Subject: Proposal for Enhancing COVID Protection for On-campus Dining at UBC

**Introduction**

Coronavirus has posed a significant challenge to daily life and work in the past few years, and UBC students’ campus life and studies have been greatly affected. Coronavirus is expected to persist for a long time, with the BC Centre for Disease Control and Prevention reporting 667 confirmed new cases in a single day yesterday. With UBC back on campus and many students gathering on campus for activities, there is a high possibility of rapid spread if someone is tested positive.

UBC students are involved in various campus activities, including lectures, club activities, and daily activities. To prevent the spread of COVID, UBC has implemented several measures, including masks compulsory during indoor activities and regular seating for each class during the semester. However, many risks are associated with dining on campus. If coronavirus were to continue to be diagnosed on campus, it would cause panic among the rest of the UBC students and affect the university’s reputation.

**Statement of Problem**

Many students gather in confined spaces during mealtimes without wearing masks for a long time, putting students at high risk of getting coronavirus. There are two main reasons: First, students remove their masks to eat and talk in confined spaces where they cannot keep their distance. Second, students have to wait in line for long periods to order or heat their meals due to the similarity of mealtimes.

**Proposed Solution**

One possible solution to the problem of enhancing COVID protection for on-campus dining is to have acrylic transparent anti-droplet isolation boards in confined dining areas. This baffle can effectively avoid sneezing and coughing. It is reusable, and each student can disinfect and clean it up with alcohol after eating. As it is transparent, students can communicate without obstructing eyesight.

**Scope**

To assess the feasibility for setting transparent anti-droplet isolation baffle, I plan to pursue five areas of inquiry:

1. What action does UBC take presently sticking to students’ on-campus dining?

2. How many areas need these boards? How many baffles are needed?

3. How many students agree to have isolation boards?

4. What is the suitable board size (various spaces have different sizes)?

5. What are the costs of isolation boards and their installation?

**Methods**

My primary data sources will include consultations with AMS Student Nest connecting students with UBC. Besides, I will also inspect some restaurants having isolation boards to evaluate them as examples. If possible, I will conduct a questionnaire survey of whether students accept isolation boards.

Secondary sources will include some E-sources related to the acrylic transparent anti-droplet isolation board.

**My Qualifications**

I possess strong information searching and collecting ability and negotiation experience due to my previous work experience. Therefore, I can collect detailed information about the isolation board for AMS. Besides, I have a business bachelor’s degree; therefore, I am familiar with business reports and field trips.

**Conclusion**

Overall, UBC needs to take action to enhance its COVID protection for on-campus dining. By answering the five questions mentioned above, I can estimate whether installing a transparent anti-droplet isolation board is reasonable. Once with your approval, I will start my research.