



Canadian Association for Girls In Science

September 1, 2021

Dear CAGIS Families,

I hope you had a safe, happy, and restful summer. CAGIS staff and volunteers have been busy planning exciting STEM activities and adventures for the upcoming season.

I am writing to update you on CAGIS' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and what to expect from chapters over the next year. At this point in time, CAGIS coordinators, the CAGIS Board of Directors comprising physicians and scientists, and I have decided that **chapters will remain virtual in their outreach activities for the fall**. As much as we are keen to return to in-person activities, the health and safety of our network is paramount.

Given the rapid spread of the Delta variant, lack of vaccine approval for our younger members, and the large-group nature of our chapter events, which do not meet provincial criteria in some cases, it will be safest for chapters to continue meeting in an online format for the coming months. Additionally, many of the labs, workshops, and industries with whom we partner to bring our members on adventures to exciting locations, are not yet ready to open their doors to non-essential visits.

CAGIS will continue to closely monitor the situation and will decide season-by-season the best course of action for chapters for the coming months. While we expect in-person events to return in 2022, it is premature to know whether that will occur in winter, spring, or fall. We will keep our network updated of changes and inform members via email, social media, and our website, when in person events are set to return.

Until then, we have a variety of ways you can stay engaged:

- CAGIS Chapters are continuing to meet monthly, online
- CAGIS Virtual is continuing with weekly hands-on live virtual sessions on Saturdays, starting Sept 25. This program is set to continue after the pandemic.

Additionally, CAGIS is turning 30 in 2022! We will be celebrating all year with a variety of gifts for our network as part of STEM's biggest birthday party! These will include:

- a separate website for kids and teens with contests, videos, articles, and more
- a new YouTube video series
- a big virtual party

To keep up-to-date on the latest happenings, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the handle @GirlsInScience. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Larissa Vingilis-Jaremko, Ph.D.
Founder & President
Canadian Association for Girls in Science (CAGIS)