

Hi, and welcome to *On The Record* news. It's Wednesday the 25th of January.

I'm Aru Kaul and I'm Claire Donaghue. These are the stories we're following this week, a new Omicron subvariant has made its way to Ontario. SBB 1.5 also known as "Kraken" is the most transmissible variant yet, however, experts say this is not necessarily a reason to panic. Professor Emeritus Timothy Sly and Associate Professor Thomas Tencate from the TMU's School of Public Health acknowledge the variant's high rate of transmissibility, but also say that the increase in cases would have happened regardless of whether or not there was a new sub variant.

Consent Action Week is back with new events tomorrow at 6pm. Join author Adrienne Mar and poet Kinesia Charles for a conversation about healing pleasure, accountability and building a world based on consent. The TMU community can also attend the sexual health and pleasure fair on the same day from 11am to 2pm.

The Toronto Board of Health passed a motion to keep warming centres open 24 hours a day in an effort to address the effects of cold weather on unhoused people. Counsellors will vote on this measure at their next city hall meeting in a couple of weeks. Visit ontherecord.ca for more of the stories.

'The Burn' is something you may want to check out in the coming weeks, especially if you're feeling what many are calling post pandemic trauma. 'The Burn' is an interactive art installation commemorating the pandemic three years ago, there will be a ceremony for 24 hours starting March 11 and running until March 12. The art piece was created by artists Roger Mooking, JAVID Jaw and Wyandot Elder Catherine Tamaro.

OTR News reporter Lauren Stallone spoke with TMU's students about their mental health journey, following the COVID 19 pandemic.

We are here on the Toronto metropolitan university campus talking to students about what healing has looked like for them following the pandemic, you couldn't really access resources during the pandemic. And also, you know, basically your whole life was shut down for a few years. So yeah, it definitely impacted nothing very substantial. I wouldn't say it was definitely an adjustment, you know, given just spending so much more time alone during the pandemic that I found, for sure. But I feel like I adapted to it in like a in a proper manner. So yeah, I think it's hard for people to adjust and become comfortable with being by themselves, especially because we weren't able to like see our friends have a lockdown and stuff. So that was definitely a big challenge. And definitely, I feel like both individual and societal identity has been affected. For so many reasons.

I think like living in isolation has definitely impacted the way we go about our problems, the way that we talk to others around us. I think that as a society as well. Coming back from something like a pandemic,

personal space, how much we're able to divulge, like, feeling close or vulnerable to people has definitely been affected. So I lived in an apartment all by myself, and you have roommates. So it was definitely like me and my thoughts all the time. So it was definitely a little bit harder to deal with those sometimes.

That's something that I'm trying to do at school actually, I noticed like being alone so much during the pandemic, I found that I kind of lost a bit of my like, I'm very social person, very extroverted. I feel like I lost that little bit after, like during the pandemic. So now I'm trying to just kind of get out there more and meet more people, whether it be through work or through school. So yeah, so much stuff. But like, post pandemic, if they go on like a lot more hikes and stuff just have like those, like little conversations with people I haven't seen in a while, I guess I'm sort of

saying yes to more things, saying yes to going out with friends more, doing more in Toronto just because, you know, I felt like it was locked away for so long. That now I just want to take advantage of everything. That's yeah, or even like international opportunities. Well, I definitely feel like it's important to give yourself some grace and some, you know, space to be like, Well, we went through this traumatising thing, obviously. So, giving yourself that, that willingness to realise that healing isn't a linear process. I think that as well. You know, I I see a therapist regularly and just in general, I think everyone should go to therapy at some point or another in their life, and just taking some of the time out of therapy to talk about that. And to just remind yourself, we've been is a bit far out from when the pandemic has kind of stopped, stopped, per se affecting our lives in the same way that it was before. So sometimes like you forget, and you're like, Oh yeah, like I feel this way maybe because of stuff that has happened during the pandemic.

This is Lauren Stallone for *On The Record*.

Security measures increased on TMU's campus about two weeks ago. Here's *OTR* reporter Joseph CasciaroBeshara with the story.

So Alexandra and I have been looking into this and we found that last year in March, there was an incident occur hall where a student was sexually assaulted. And a second incident also incur Hall in October and with RTA staff, there was three members of the staff that were threatened over email, the school decided to implement some new safety measures. Those included see security across campus at many of the entrances to buildings. And there has been an intercom placed at the RTA offices, it comes to the intercom Sean Haswell, a member of staff for the RTA, he says he personally requested that intercom to be installed because it is impossible to see through the door of the RTA offices. And he said you'd feel more comfortable being able to know who's on the other side decisions came after a safety audit was conducted incur Hall and now here we are with these new guidelines. And they've also added a relationship with the Toronto Police Services. So police will be patrolling campus mentioned something about staff but do you have any opinions of students with the students? A fourth year student said she does appreciate the new guidelines and the new safety measures and makes her feel safe in some aspects. But she also says she feels concerned when there's a large group of security because it can be

intimidating. She said, Whoever a student group here on campus, the Student Union, the president Marina Gorjuss gave us a comment and she said they're completely against this and they don't think police fixes the problem and racing. She's a professor here as well as Professor Lille Schumann. They both gave the comment that they are completely against these new added measures. Well, thank you so much for coming in Joseph and thank you for all your important work on this story.

And finally looking for ways to get involved in and around campus? Here's reporter DeAndra Asapokhai with a roundup.

I'm DeAndra Asapokhai and this is your weekly events update sexual health and pleasure community fair will be held at the SLC amphitheatre between 11am and 2pm on Thursday, January 26. Check out local resources focused on sexual health and sexual violence supports within our community at the fair. The names clans and colours potluck feast will also be held on Thursday between five and 7pm at pod 250 on Victoria Street, join TMU's in celebrating the receiving and gifting of spirit names, clans and colours. The board games Cafe events will be held on Monday, January 30, from three to 6pm at the CPA lounge in TRSS. Meet some of your classmates and upaya students while playing games at the board games cafe.

And lastly, *OTR's* own Luis Najara will be in The Venn on Wednesday, February 1 from 11am to answer all your burning questions about photojournalism.

That was DeAndra Asapokhai with help from producer Kareena Aranha.

The City of Toronto says the intersection of King Street West and University Avenue will be closed for approximately two weeks will crews work to repair broken watermain that caused heavy delays in the area over the weekend. Environment Canada is estimating 15 to 25 centimetres of snow today in the GTA starting this afternoon and continuing till Thursday morning, so get home safe.

That's it for today's show. For more stories from our *OTR* newsroom, please have a look at our website that's ontherecord news.ca

I'm Claire Donaghue.

And I'm Aru Kaul.

See you back here next Wednesday.