



**PGSS** The Post Graduate Students' Society of McGill University  
**ÀÉCSUM** Association étudiante des cycles supérieurs de l'Université McGill



# VIRTUAL HEALTH CARE: REFERENDUM

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Vote online between  
**March 13 - 24, 2023**  
at [pgss.simplyvoting.com](https://pgss.simplyvoting.com)

## 1. WHY VIRTUAL HEALTH CARE?

Having easy access to medical professionals is vital for the well-being of students, but in-person health services within and around McGill University can often be limited and inconvenient for PGSS members due to financial, administrative, and other barriers. With Virtual Health Care (provided by Dialogue), however, health care is always just a tap away no matter where students are, and they don't have to wait in line at a clinic.

## 2. WHY A REFERENDUM?

PGSS members currently already have access to Virtual Health Care, until Aug. 31, 2023. Now PGSS is holding a referendum to determine if students would support renewing the service to continue their access from Sept. 2023 - Aug. 2025, with no increase to the current fees for the duration of the renewal period. Should the referendum vote pass, eligibility criteria would also change to provide access to the service to **all full-time and part-time graduate students** (to match PGSS Health & Dental Plan eligibility).

## 3. WHAT DOES VIRTUAL HEALTH CARE INCLUDE?

Virtual Health Care allows students to consult doctors and nurses via a mobile app or on the web from anywhere in Canada.

The service evaluates and treats only health issues that can be assessed via telemedicine, when a physical exam isn't required. Around 70% of typical walk-in clinic cases can be treated virtually.

The following features are included:

- Fast access to medical professionals via chat, video, or phone
- Video consultations with licensed doctors and nurses
- Follow-up from the Dialogue team or referral to specialists
- Prescription delivery to your pharmacy

Find out more about what the current service offers on the [PGSS Virtual Health Care web page](#).

## 4. WHAT CAN I CONSULT THE SERVICE FOR?



**Certain conditions:** nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, minor aches and pains, headaches, migraines, allergies

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**Dermatology conditions:** skin rashes, hives, or abrasions

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**Minor emergencies:** urinary tract infection, conjunctivitis, or sinusitis

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**Advice regarding minor injuries:** cuts, bites, muscular or joint pains

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**Sexual health:** sexually transmitted infection (STI) information and screening

## 5. HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST?

The annual fee for Virtual Health Care, automatically charged with tuition and other fees, **would not increase** for the proposed renewal period of Sept. 2023 - Aug. 2025. It would remain at the current rate:

- \$44.84 for Fall Term students (for access from Sept. 1 - Aug. 31)
- \$29.90 for new Winter Term students (for access from Jan. 1 - Aug. 31)

## 6. COULD I OPT OUT?

Yes, students would continue to have the option to opt out of Virtual Health Care services during a Change-of-Coverage & Opt-Out Period at the start of the term and receive a full refund for the fee.

## 7. WHERE AND WHEN CAN I VOTE?

You can vote online between March 13 - 24, 2023 at [pgss.simplyvoting.com](https://pgss.simplyvoting.com).