



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 2, 2021

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administrators,

As we continue to monitor the rates of COVID-19 and the guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), New York State, and New York City regarding best practices for health and safety, our optimism for the end of this pandemic continues to be challenged. With the recent change in [CDC mask recommendations for vaccinated individuals](#), and Mayor Bill de Blasio's indoor mask recommendations where the vaccination status of other people is unknown, I am reinstating the ***indoor mask mandate*** at the Mount in hallway passing and public spaces.

As previously announced, all members of the Mount community (i.e., [students](#) and [employees](#)) are [required to be vaccinated](#) with only approved medical or religious exemptions allowed. If you have not submitted your vaccination records or sought approval for medical/religious exemptions, I ask that you do so as soon as possible. You can view our Vaccination Requirements and upload your documents [online](#). Whereas we have not required students to be fully vaccinated prior to the beginning of the semester because some may not have access to or family support for vaccination, employees must have their vaccination records or approved medical or religious exemptions uploaded prior to the beginning of the fall semester (September 7).

Like so many of you, I am eager for a fall semester that looks and feels closer to the “typical” college experience. Yet, because vaccination rates have stalled and the Delta Variant is taking hold, the guidance for how best to preserve the health and safety of our community continues to change. One of the many reasons the College of Mount Saint Vincent is requiring COVID-19 vaccination for the 2021-2022 academic year is because our mission and values call us to *commit to human dignity and a full appreciation of our obligations to each other*. Our mission and values call us to action, which in this instance includes taking the necessary steps for the health of our community.

As the situation evolves, we'll continue to share updates we make to keep our community safe. We encourage you to review our [COVID-19 Resources](#) for more information.

With hope for us to come together safely soon,

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.
President