



January 12, 2022

Dear Students, Faculty, Administrators and Staff,

With the start of the Spring 2022 semester quickly approaching, and COVID continuing to present a challenge to our community, it is important to update you on our ongoing efforts to maintain our community safety, and ask for your continued support and commitment to ensuring our success and well being in managing this latest phase of the pandemic together.

### **Spring Semester Updates:**

- Plans for returning to in-seat, on-campus classes beginning January 24 remain unchanged and we look forward to coming together to launch a successful Spring 2022 semester.
- Our indoor mask mandate for public access spaces—in hallways, classrooms, and public areas—remains in place.
- In order to prevent the spread of illness, it is essential that you wear your mask properly – fully covering your nose and mouth. For your own safety and the safety of our community, thank you in advance for continuing to mask up.

### **COVID Testing for Students, Faculty, Administrators, and Staff:**

- All members of our campus community—students, faculty, administrators, and staff—are strongly encouraged to participate in on-campus COVID testing when returning to campus for the start of the Spring 2022 semester. Testing will be provided on each of the following dates:
  - Tuesday, January 18
  - Wednesday, January 19
  - Monday, January 24
  - Tuesday, January 25
- **Employees and resident students returning to campus before January 24** are required to either be tested through one of the on-campus tests on January 18 or 19, or if unable to participate in testing on those dates, must submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before their return to campus.
- **Employees and commuter students returning to campus on or after January 24** are required to test on January 24 or 25, or if unable to participate in testing on those dates, must submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before their return to campus.
  - Students and Employees should submit private, off-campus COVID test results through Banner Self Service, following the [Upload Instructions - College of Mount Saint Vincent](#).
- ***Students who are unable to attend testing prior to the above dates and cannot obtain a negative COVID-19 test result prior to their return to campus must contact [stuscreen@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:stuscreen@mountsaintvincent.edu).***
- To ensure our health and safety, we are committed to increased routine testing for all members of our community on campus through the Spring semester. Information about test dates will be shared with all routinely, as scheduled this semester.

### **Vaccine Booster and Reporting:**

- All members of the Mount community are required to be fully vaccinated, with only approved medical or religious exemptions allowed. As in the Fall semester, employees and students who have

approved medical or religious exemptions for vaccination will be required to submit weekly negative tests to Human Resources or Student Affairs.

- Consistent with current CDC, State, and City guidelines, we **strongly encourage** all members of the community to get a booster vaccination as soon as you are eligible to do so. These booster doses are expected to reduce the duration and severity of illness should you become infected with COVID, and help protect our community from the spread of the more contagious variant currently spreading in the US. Booster vaccination records should be submitted through Self-Service to update your personal records as soon as they are received.
- All students participating in Study Abroad programs for the Spring 2022 semester and beyond are required to receive a vaccine booster before traveling abroad. Many international programs are updating their requirements for participation on an ongoing basis, and the College will share information with students as we are informed of updates.
- All nursing students participating in clinical placements must receive a booster vaccination to be eligible for clinicals. This is a requirement of the clinical settings, and there cannot and will not be exceptions to this requirement.
- All members of the College community are reminded that they must submit their vaccination status, including receiving booster vaccines, through Self-Service.

### **Residential Life, Student Activities, and Athletics**

- Our protocols for residential life remain unchanged from the Fall 2021 semester. Again, to keep our community healthy, the safety precautions that were in place during the Fall will continue, including the prohibition of guests in residence halls. Residential students will be required to recommit to these safety protocols upon their return to campus.
- Clubs, organizations, and all student activities will continue in-person once students are back on campus. With health and safety in mind, all will be meeting regularly while adhering to masking protocols and where necessary, using a hybrid approach with limited large events until further notice.
- Regretfully, but with our community's safety paramount, until further notice there will be no spectators permitted to attend student events.
- The Skyline Conference has prohibited spectators for athletic competitions until February 1, 2022. While we continue to monitor guidance from the NCAA and Skyline Conference for Winter and Spring athletics, participation in athletics competitions and related events continues as scheduled. Travel plans for our Spring teams remain under consideration as the College monitors local and regional conditions, and updates to student athletes will be provided as we are informed.

I know each of us is growing tired of the limitations the pandemic continues to impose, as we work to maintain our health and safety, individually and together as members of the 'Phin family. Your efforts are very much appreciated, and the sacrifices you continue to make to protect each other truly embody all that defines our community. As I mark the end of my first year at the College this month, I am grateful and excited to continue to share with you all the experiences that make the Mount the Right Place on the River.

Thank you, again, for your continued commitment to our community's health and safety—and for supporting another successful semester.

Sincerely,



Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.  
President