



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

October 24, 2020

Subject: Updates on COVID-19 testing on campus and Thanksgiving break

Dear Mount Community:

We are grateful for everyone's efforts in maintaining the campus health and safety protocols implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Your continued cooperation is appreciated. In response to trends across the region and nation, beginning next week the College will conduct regular voluntary [COVID-19 pooled testing](#) on a statistically significant sample of the campus population on both the Riverdale campus and at the Queens site. The first round of saliva RT-PCR test kits will be distributed and collected next week. Please see the attached FAQs for more information. This testing initiative is being launched as an additional prevention and surveillance effort in light of increased positivity rates across the tri-state region and not as a reaction to campus data, which can be found on the College's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

Classes will remain in-seat following Thanksgiving break through the conclusion of final exams on December 18, 2020. As of October 20, 2020, the New York State COVID-19 travel advisory is in effect for 40 U.S. states/territories. The list is updated frequently by the State Department of Health, and can be found at coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory. All residence halls will remain open and residential students will be able to stay in their residence halls over Thanksgiving break at no cost. The Division of Student Affairs will coordinate programming and a Thanksgiving dinner for all who must remain on campus over the break. Pursuant to New York State orders, any student or employee who travels to a state or territory under the travel advisory will have to complete a 14-day quarantine, off campus and at their own expense. Absences from classes and exams during the travel quarantine period are not considered excused absences.

Again, thank you for your efforts to maintain your health and the welfare of our shared community.

Sincerely,
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