



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 16, 2021

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administrators,

I hope this communication finds you healthy, well, and enjoying the recent beautiful weather.

This message is meant to address potential questions you may have given Governor Cuomo's most recent [announcement](#) related to lifting COVID-19 restrictions in the state of New York. Like so many others, I am thrilled to see that we are able to return to "normal" given the high rates of vaccinations and lowered rates of COVID-19 cases. While we are pleased to receive the Governor's announcement, we are also continuing to pay attention to the [guidance](#) offered by the CDC for Institutions of Higher Education.

While we are still making plans for the fall semester to ensure the health and safety of our community—including vaccination requirements and submission of immunization records—I am happy to inform you that based upon the Governor's announcement and CDC recommendations, the following changes to our COVID-19 protocol will take effect immediately *for individuals who are fully vaccinated*:

- Masks are not required on campus.
 - Social distancing is not required on campuses or in classrooms.
 - Offices and research labs can operate at full density.
 - Daily health screening surveys and COVID-19 clearance passes are no longer required for anyone to enter campus, including employees, students, vendors, and guests.
 - There will be no limits on the size of gatherings.
 - Additional pandemic-related cleaning and disinfection protocols are no longer required.
 - Dining facilities can resume normal capacity and hours of operation.
 - On-campus activities, events, and camps can operate without restrictions.
 - Athletic, recreational, and fitness centers/spaces can operate without restrictions.
- Additionally, whereas all state restrictions on college athletics are rolled back, we will continue to comply with any guidance required by the NCAA and Skyline Conference.

The upcoming New Student Orientation and Commencement for our 2020 graduates will also follow the new guidelines, thus masks and social distancing for vaccinated individuals will not be required. If you have questions regarding these events, I encourage you to contact studentaffairs@mountsaintvincent.edu.

Per the CDC guidance, as we implement these changes in protocol for vaccinated individuals, we will still require those who are not vaccinated or have medical or religious exemptions to wear masks indoors and socially distance as needed to ensure their health and safety.

The phrase “thank you” seems insufficient for expressing my appreciation to the Mount community’s commitment to our mission, values, and the health and safety of ourselves and each other; however, it is what I will offer in closing. Thank you for what you have done to keep our community healthy and safe.

I look forward to seeing your unmasked faces and smiles on campus!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan R. Burns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.
President