



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 24, 2021

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Administration,

We have worked together tirelessly to manage through a global pandemic that has significantly impacted our community. While COVID-19 is not yet fully behind us, vaccines have dramatically lowered the risk of infection and made it possible to plan for a fully in-person fall semester without mask or physical distancing requirements for vaccinated members of our community. We are filled with hope and excitement about everything this means to us at this right place on the river, but we can't do it without your continued help.

This return to normalcy will be made possible by following the data and evolving science while maintaining our firm commitment to each other. Despite lower risks today and the downward trends in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in New York, it is clear that the full experience we must strive to offer in the fall will only be assured with the vaccination of our College community.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published [Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education](#), advising that complete elimination of masking and distancing requirements for everyone would be advisable only if everyone is fully vaccinated. Understanding that there will always be those in our community who should not be vaccinated, we must take care to limit exceptions and ensure that those who are not vaccinated are still able to participate in the College of Mount Saint Vincent experience without fear for their personal health and safety. This combination of CDC guidance, as well as the College's own experience and endorsement from our Board of Trustees, has informed the following decisions regarding vaccinations.

Vaccinations* will be required for all employees of the College of Mount Saint Vincent, with exemptions for medical reasons and sincerely held religious beliefs.

During the past academic year, we weathered significant surges in COVID-19 cases throughout New York City. We achieved this because you masked up, washed up, and backed up—all while participating in campus testing and self-quarantine. Now, we must do everything possible to avoid repeating the challenges, and we must ensure that colleagues who cannot be vaccinated are still able to participate in our campus community. *It is essential that every member of our faculty, staff, and administration who can be vaccinated, is vaccinated.*

Protecting yourself, your loved ones, and the Mount community against COVID-19 is the greatest prize of all after the past year, but we plan to throw in a little something extra to reward those who have gotten their shot—and to encourage the entire College community to participate. From round trip airfare to a new MacBook to using my very own presidential parking space, here's some of the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine incentives** at the Mount:

- Round trip tickets to destination of choice

- Free coffee for a year from Mag’s Kitchen and Hudson Heights
- \$500 loaded to My Dollars
- MacBook Air
- Broadway show tickets
- Sporting event tickets
- Dinner with President Burns
- Presidential parking space
- Reserved parking space on campus for a year

Stay tuned for [additional details](#) on how to enter and upcoming drawing dates (there will be four!). Proof of immunization is required for the incentivized prizes. Those who cannot receive the vaccine for medical reasons and sincerely held religious beliefs will also be included in the giveaway once their exemption has been approved. Employees are encouraged to visit our [COVID-19 resources](#) for more information on vaccination requirements and to visit [Self-Service](#) to confirm vaccination status or request an exemption. The deadline for reporting the completion of the full course of vaccination doses is **October 15, 2021**.

We’re here to answer your questions and to help you schedule your vaccine, including at the College. For those without access to a vaccine, Mount Saint Vincent will offer clinics at the start of the academic year. Please look for additional information and instructions regarding our vaccine clinics as we gear up for the fall semester.

We also understand that members of our College community—regardless of vaccination status—may prefer to limit their risk further by continuing to wear masks while around others. We fully respect and support that personal decision.

To each and every one of you—I greatly appreciate your selfless commitment to public health guidelines that helped us manage through and emerge stronger from this pandemic. I am confident that this “new normal” will make us an even more resilient, compassionate, connected, and service-minded community. I am looking forward to another year filled with all of the joy and benefits of the shared experience we cherish at the Mount—along with the new tools, methods, and expertise that we have developed throughout the pandemic.

Thank you, again, for your commitment to our community’s health and safety—and for supporting this next step toward a return to another successful, fully in-person fall semester.

Sincerely,



Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.
President

*COVID-19 vaccinations will be required for the entire College of Mount Saint Vincent community once fully approved by the FDA.
**The value of all incentivized prizes may be taxable to the recipient.