



COLLEGE OF  
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 24, 2021

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administrators,

Yesterday, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced](#) that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has received full authorization. With this announcement, I am writing to remind you that the College is [requiring vaccinations](#) for the entire community with exemptions only for medical reasons and sincerely held religious beliefs.

Employees are required to upload their vaccination records or approved medical or religious exemptions [online](#) prior to the start of the Fall semester on Tuesday, September 7—there will be no exceptions. Students are expected to meet the same requirement, but have a slightly longer timeline of October 15 to be in full compliance. Now that the FDA has granted full authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, I strongly encourage students who have not begun their vaccination process to do so **prior to arriving on campus**. The College will be offering a limited number of vaccine clinics on campus prior to and at the start of classes for students who have not had access to or support for vaccination prior to their arrival.

As we plan for the full reopening of the campus with the beginning of the semester, know that we continue to be mindful of the guidance offered by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New York State, and New York City regarding health and safety guidelines, vaccine requirements, and masking protocols. Most notably, ***the College is updating our plans for the logistics associated with the Mayor's restrictions that require proof of vaccination for indoor dining, gyms, and indoor performances.*** I encourage you to continue to monitor your email for further direction on these matters. Additionally, in compliance with the CDC recommendation, the indoor mask mandate for hallways and public spaces continues, but it is my hope that once the community passes the 80% vaccination rate for all students, faculty, staff, and administrators, we can lift the indoor mask mandate. I appreciate the community's adherence to this indoor mask mandate, regardless of vaccination status, so that we can avoid the increased risk of a COVID-19 spread associated with the Delta variant.

With the desire for our community to come together and stay together, I thank you in advance for your continued mission-centered commitment to your own and each other's health and safety.

Warmest regards,

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.  
President