



COLLEGE OF  
**MOUNT SAINT VINCENT**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 17, 2021

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Administrators,

As the start of the Fall 2021 semester is now just three weeks from today, our preparations for a safe and healthy reopening of the College, and welcome for our new students, are in full swing. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge our planning as the new Delta variant causes a resurgence in cases around the country, but we are diligently monitoring the evolving 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.

As I've shared with you previously, all members of the Mount community are required to be vaccinated in order to maintain the health and safety of our community. Exceptions will only be allowed for medical or religious exemptions that have been submitted and approved. Again, you can view our Vaccination Requirements and upload your documents [online](#).

***It is essential that all employees upload their vaccination records, or approved medical or religious exemption, to the system prior to the start of the Fall semester on Tuesday, September 7—there will be no exceptions.***

Students will also have to meet the same requirement, on a slightly expanded timeline of October 15. Recognizing that some may not have had access to, or support to be vaccinated, we will provide on-campus vaccine clinics for students, prior to and at the start of the Fall semester.

And while our indoor mask mandate for hallways and public spaces continues, it is my hope that the Mount community may be able to forgo the mandate once we pass the 80% vaccination rate for all students, faculty, staff, and administrators. I look forward to sharing our progress as we hit—and surpass—this goal.

Mount Saint Vincent has been extraordinarily fortunate over the course of the pandemic, thanks to our shared commitment to the mission and values of the College in keeping each member of our 'Phin Family healthy and safe. We must continue to maintain those mission-centered commitments to each other, and to the Mount community at large, as we face the new challenges of the evolving pandemic together.

With gratitude for your support and hope for a successful start of the Fall semester,

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.  
President