



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 15, 2021

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Administrators,

Happy Reunion and Homecoming Weekend! Although it is difficult to believe that we are nearing the mid-point of the semester, the change in leaves, cooler weather, and coming midterms let us know that the time has come.

Today is the date by which I gave students to either be vaccinated against COVID-19 or to have received an approved medical or religious exemption. Employees had until September 7 to be compliant. To those who followed the requirements and did their part to help protect the health and safety of this community, **thank you!** Your commitment to our common humanity and obligations to each other is a living expression of the Mount's mission and values.

I am pleased to share that, as of today, our Mount community is approximately 95% vaccinated against COVID-19! Students have until end of day today to submit their vaccination records or receive their approved exemptions, and I expect by next week that percentage will be even higher. With the NY Hero Act still in effect until October 31, indoor masks are still a requirement; however, masks are not required outdoors for individuals who are fully vaccinated. The Governor or Health Commissioner may choose to extend that date, so please stay-tuned and stay masked indoors until further notice. Thank you for following our masking requirements.

As I have communicated with the community previously, students who are not in compliance with the required vaccination or approved exemption will be academically suspended and removed from campus. Let me be clear that for the safety of our community, we are very serious about this consequence. The senior leadership team has plans in place to move forward with these academic suspensions and removals for students who do not comply by end of day today. Pursuant to College policy, students will have the chance to appeal. The appeal process, however, will look a little different in this instance because all appeals for non-compliance will be directed to me personally for consideration. Again, the health and safety of this community is the utmost priority.

The Main Gate has already been checking vaccination records and/or proof of approved exemptions and, starting today, October 15, the gate-check will be held more stringently and with the expectation of compliance. Campus Safety and Security is also prepared for our many guests and visitors for this weekend's activities, who have been informed of our requirements for COVID-19 vaccination documentation.

I look forward to seeing many of you at various events this weekend. Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Mount healthy and safe!

Sincerely,

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.
President