



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 5, 2021

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Administrators,

In an ongoing effort to keep you updated on the College's health and safety, I am pleased to share that our Mount community is approximately 99% vaccinated against COVID-19! The College approved a small number of exemptions for medical reasons or sincerely held religious beliefs, and those individuals with exemptions are required to submit weekly negative COVID-19 tests to ensure their—and the community's—continued safe operations.

We learned this week that the Governor has extended the NY Hero Act through December 15, which requires us to continue adhering to the indoor mask mandate. Given the timing of this extension, I have made the decision to continue the indoor mask requirement until the end of the Fall Semester, and we will continue to monitor the NY Hero Act status and CDC Guidelines for the Winter Session and Spring Semester. I ask you all to please not only wear your masks indoors, but to wear them properly with your nose and mouth covered while in public places (i.e., in Mags Kitchen, the servery of Hudson Heights, classrooms, and hallways). Masks are not required outdoors for individuals who are fully vaccinated. Thank you for following our masking requirements.

As we have passed the mid-point of the semester, it is also a good time to remind students that they are advised to manage their overall number of absences throughout the semester carefully. Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be excused for their class absences and allowed to complete make-up assignments during the period of mandatory isolation *only* if they submit a copy of their positive test results to stuscreen@mountsaintvincent.edu. Students who do not submit copies of their positive tests will be marked absent.

Students who have symptoms that they think might be related to a COVID-19 infection will be excused from class and allowed to complete make-up assignments *only* if they submit proof of taking a PCR test for COVID-19 within 24 hours of reporting their symptoms to stuscreen@mountsaintvincent.edu. Students who do not submit proof within 24 hours of reporting symptoms will be marked absent. If test results are negative, students are expected to return to class immediately upon receipt of results. Students with COVID-related absences will be required to complete an equivalent amount of comparable work on the scheduled class day to be considered "present" for that class session.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our community!

Sincerely,

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.
President