



COLLEGE OF  
**MOUNT SAINT VINCENT**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 10, 2022

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administrators,

I want to start by thanking you all for once again stepping up in true Mount Saint Vincent fashion to continue to protect our community.

Nearly 100% of our 'Phin Fam is vaccinated against COVID-19, compliance with testing has been exceptional overall, and anyone looking around our buildings would show near-perfect masking rates. I am so proud of each and every one of you and I am thrilled to announce that because of the progress made on campus and across New York, ***the College is lifting mask requirements for individuals who are fully vaccinated, effective immediately.*** This news comes following Governor Hochul's [announcement](#) yesterday, which aims to keep New York safe, open, and moving forward.

Though we've lifted our mandate for public access spaces on campus—including hallways, classrooms, and public areas—masks remain a critical tool to fight the spread of COVID-19, so I encourage you to continue wearing masks or face coverings to protect others. And please keep in mind that the Key to NYC is still in place, which requires proof of vaccination in some locations on campus and throughout New York City.

Per the CDC, as we implement these changes in protocol for vaccinated individuals, we will still require those who are not vaccinated or have medical or religious exemptions to wear masks indoors, socially distance, and test to ensure their health and safety. Additionally, the College will continue to follow the latest CDC guidance on [isolation and quarantine](#)—individuals with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that with 5 days of wearing a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter.

Our ability to relax our protocols also depends on the continued increase in members of our community who are fully vaccinated—and boosted—against COVID-19. If you are eligible for receiving your COVID-19 booster shot and have not yet, I strongly encourage you to do so. And if you need a mask, please stop by Student Affairs, the Pavilion, Human Resources, or other spaces throughout campus to pick one up.

As always, we will continue to update our community as we monitor the [guidance](#) offered by the CDC for Institutions of Higher Education, New York State, and New York City regarding these ever-changing dynamics.

Thank you for what you have done and what you continue to do to keep us all healthy and safe!

Sincerely,

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.  
President