



DARE TO DO MORE

Dear LaGuardia faculty and staff,

For this week's Update, I ask you to try to imagine returning to campus under ideal conditions. I know we are not there yet, but in preparing for the fall it really helps to plan for the optimal situation. After all, we can always dial back to remote classes and remote student services if conditions are not optimal. It is much harder if we plan conservatively and then, at the last minute, because of factors we don't control, need to convert classes and support services in the other direction – from remote to in-person.

Improving Health Conditions: Let's start with some good news. As the mayor announced last week, New York City's COVID-19 positivity rate is the lowest it has been since the pandemic began last year. The city's overall COVID positivity rate has fallen to 0.78%. Here at LaGuardia, we have not had a positive Covid case in more than a month. Of course, this is because of the growing number of New Yorkers getting vaccinated. To date over 8 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered across the five boroughs. Please – I urge each and every one of you to get vaccinated. It's free. It's safe. It's easy. It will keep you and your loved ones safe.

Important Dates: Hope you can listen in to my Closing Sessions presentation on YouTube on Wednesday, June 9, at 2 PM. Please also join our 49th Commencement on Thursday, June 17, at 1 PM to celebrate the achievements of our 3,200 graduates, who, against significant obstacles, persevered with their studies and satisfied the requirements for their Associate degrees during the Covid-19 pandemic. On June 28 the CUNY Board of Trustees will meet to consider policies to ensure health and safety on CUNY campuses. (I will share my hopes for action by the Trustees in my Closing Sessions remarks.)

The Big Issue: When it comes to providing students with the teaching modalities they want this fall we still have a long way to go. You will recall that in last week's Update I suggested a goal of 60% of fall sections in-person and hybrid. We are not even half-way there yet. I fear that if we don't increase our in-person and hybrid offerings it will be very hard to reverse our shrinking enrollment. I am grateful to our Academic Chairs for their work with faculty to address this imbalance.

Class Caps: Because we believe that current social distancing regulations will be eliminated by the fall, in-person class caps will be restored to their normal levels. Hybrid and remote class caps will continue as they are.



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Remote Work: Many staff will have the opportunity to continue to do some of their work remotely. I encourage all staff to begin to talk to your managers about where and how you want to do your work this fall. Under the leadership of Ron Edwards, Human Resources will be convening informational workshops for managers. A note to managers, please schedule appointments to attend one of the sessions below:

Monday, June 14, 2021 - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 15, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 17, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Revising our Reopening Plan: LaGuardia's Return to Campus Operational Task Force, chaired by Denise Gomez, and comprised of members representing key college stakeholders, is using CUNY, state and local guidance to developed campus-specific guidelines for a phased resumption of on-campus operations. The Committee is revising the LaGuardia Reopening Plan, based on improving health conditions and changes in CUNY and government guidance. The Plan addresses a range of issues, including physical distancing, gatherings in enclosed places, availability and distribution of protective equipment, cleaning, and screening, testing, tracing and tracking. All reopening activities are phased-in to allow for operational issues to be resolved before activities can proceed to the next phase until normal occupancy is achieved. If warranted, the Committee's *re-closing* plans can be implemented. Our revised Plan will be submitted to CUNY central by June 15 for review and approval.

Campus Facilities and Safety: I want you to know that the health and safety of our LaGuardia community is my number one priority. We have to be able to ensure a completely safe environment for students, faculty, staff and guests. Each month the Director of the CUNY Health and Safety Office inspects the campus. (I met him on campus on Monday.) Our monthly visit was successful, with no health and safety issues noted. The HVAC consultants hired by CUNY are currently inspecting all HVAC units on campus (including the B Building). Upon receipt of their findings and recommendations, we will address any concerns promptly and adjust our plans for occupancy of spaces if needed.

Best wishes,

Kenneth Adams
President