



DARE TO DO MORE

Dear LaGuardia faculty and staff,

As we get closer to our August 2nd return to campus for staff there is important information to share with you. Activity here is picking up as limited in-person classes continue for Health Science and ACE students, the Early Childhood Learning Center and Health Center are open two days a week, and Summer Youth Employment Programs are operating. At the same time, our maintenance teams continue to make improvements and enhance environmental health and safety. This place is looking good!

Mandatory Vaccination for Students Coming to Campus: For Fall 2021 all students taking in-person or hybrid classes will be required to be fully vaccinated. Any student accessing campus facilities for reasons other than attending class will be required to be vaccinated, or to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than seven days prior to the visit. We are reaching out to students to inform them that they must get vaccinated now to take in-person or hybrid classes, which begin on September 9. Proof of vaccination must be submitted by August 25, 2021. Verification for vaccination will be through the CUNYfirst portal. Details on submitting verification are being developed by the University and will be released soon. Pursuant to CUNY guidelines an exemption for either medical or religious reasons can be sought through our Health Services Center. However, on-campus participation is not guaranteed, and a campus access plan will be developed for students that are granted exemptions.

Faculty, Staff, and Visitors Coming to Campus: To ensure all of our health and safety, to enter the campus in Fall 2021 all faculty, staff, and visitors must prove they are either fully vaccinated or provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within no more than seven days prior to entry. I have asked Vice President for Information Technology Henry Saltiel and his team to develop a mechanism to verify compliance. Unvaccinated individuals, even though they have a verified negative COVID-19 test, will be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing at all times when they are on campus. I have asked the Return to Campus Operational Task Force—comprised of representatives of divisions, labor unions and governance—to assess whether mask wearing and social distancing should be required for individuals that are fully vaccinated. I will inform you about our decision on this issue soon.

LaGuardia Campus Reopening Plan: I am pleased to report that we received positive feedback from the CUNY Central Office on our Reopening Plan. A limited set of changes are required to the draft Plan based on CUNY Guidelines that reflect the city's continued progress in controlling the spread of COVID-19, and recently issued Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for higher education institutions. Based on CUNY Central Office feedback, our Return to Campus Operational Task Force is reviewing the recommendations from CUNY and will soon amend and resubmit our Plan. With our Plan close to being finalized, I have asked Vice President for Administration and Finance Shahir Erfan to schedule walk-throughs with our labor representatives. These important visits will allow our college's labor representatives to examine our facilities, furthering our shared goal of a healthy and safe return to campus.



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HVAC Report from CUNY: I know some of you have raised concerns about ventilation. Working under a contract with the Central Office, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions recently performed an independent inspection of LaGuardia's ventilation systems in order to reduce the risk of airborne exposure to COVID-19. The report noted the need to repair a return air damper actuator in the M-Building. This work was completed on July 2, and we anticipate the repair will soon be verified by the consultants. Upon this verification, all of our buildings will have been inspected and cleared for use.

Visiting Campus Prior to August 2: We are pleased to welcome you for a visit. However, please remember that until our revised Fall 2021 plan is approved, we are still operating under the Phase III guidelines. Remember to follow our health and safety procedures, including getting approval for going to campus from a division manager, and completing your Everbridge health screening before arriving. Please make sure to review the Campus Safety page and follow the specific protocols prior to your visit. Watch for updates as we anticipate protocols changing soon.

Get Vaxxed: The Chancellor shared encouraging data showing the high rate of vaccination within the CUNY community. That's good news, but we can't let up now. #VaxUpCUNY -- Let's make sure ALL in our community are safe.

Best wishes,

Kenneth Adams
President