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Message from the Dean

Dear Mason Community,

As we prepare for students to return to campus for the fall semester, I wanted to provide an update on Mason’s plans for in-person learning. With the Delta variant of COVID-19 continuing to spread, Mason has done an admirable job, proactively planning to support students, faculty, and staff through the pandemic.

Over the past 18 months, we have been closely monitoring the trajectory of the virus, including the latest US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance and updated guidelines from various health authorities. Mason has had an excellent vaccination rate and will continue to encourage the safe return of the Mason community.

COVID-19 requirements for on-campus learning are now consistent with Mason's longstanding history of requiring students to be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles (rubeola), German measles, mumps, and meningitis. Backpacks are available for students who still need to complete their vaccinations.

Some of the precautions that Mason will maintain include:

- In-person learning and research (with online options also available)—while also keeping a close eye on the increase in COVID cases due to the Delta variant.
- Continuation of the current masking requirement in all indoor spaces except for private residences.
- Hand hygiene and indoor ventilation.
- Social distancing in class settings, with exceptions for science classrooms.
- In-person testing of students as needed.
- Basic testing of students in large classes.
- Use of mobile testing stations for students who are removable.
- On August 23rd, students, faculty, and staff are joining the growing community of universities that require all students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated in order to work, study, and live on campus.

As we prepare for students to return to campus for the fall semester, I want to express my appreciation for everyone’s commitment to maintaining your own health.

I hope this message finds our Mason Science News readers safe and well. Friends and alumni are joining the growing community of universities that require all students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated in order to work, study, and live on campus.

Sincerely,

Dean Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm