

Colleagues,

Thanks to all of you, we made it safely through another semester. Our [COVID Dashboard](#) is up to date, showing results better than the surrounding community. With the continuing transmission of the Delta variant and the emergence of the Omicron variant, the safety of our campus community remains at the forefront of our planning as we prepare to return to in-person learning and campus life for the Spring 2022 semester.

COVID-19 Booster Requirement:

To that end, MCLA will join the Massachusetts State University system and a growing number of colleges and universities across the country and Commonwealth in **requiring all members of our campus community to receive a booster shot of an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccination (or when eligible and no later than six months after a second shot), or have an existing medical or religious exemption.** All students must receive their booster shot prior to returning to campus for the Spring 2022 semester, or as soon as they are eligible.

Employees must submit a photo image copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card showing that they have received a booster shot to Human Resources at hr@mcla.edu, or a hard copy in person to Human Resources by April 15, 2022. Human Resources is currently located in the Garden Level of Eldridge Hall.

Adjuncts working solely in the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education were required to be vaccinated by November 29, 2021. DGCE adjuncts will need to submit copies of vaccination cards by May 29, 2022, to receive contracts to teach beyond Spring 2022.

In addition to requiring booster shots for the spring, MCLA will continue to operationalize other CDC-recommended COVID health and safety protocols, such as mask wearing policies, testing for students and employees, and enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of campus buildings.

COVID-19 Testing:

Mandatory weekly testing for all students (resident students and commuters) will begin the first week of classes. Testing will be robust and more frequent, and like last year, employees are eligible for a weekly, free COVID-19 test. Voluntary asymptomatic testing for employees will continue to be available in the Spring 2022 semester, as well as required asymptomatic weekly testing for employees with approved exemptions. Stay tuned for a follow-up message after the new year, with testing locations, dates, and times.

Start of Spring 2022 semester testing:

Resident Students: All resident students will test immediately upon move-in and will be under quarantine protocol until results from the Broad Institute are available.

Commuter Students: All commuter students must test the week of January 17 to be cleared for in-person courses.

Spring 2022 Start Date and Course Delivery:

[Residence Halls](#) will open as planned and our move in dates have not changed and classes will begin as planned on Wednesday, January 19. After consultation with the MCLA MSCA chapter President, we are planning to teach the first three days remotely to ensure we follow the appropriate testing and quarantine protocols for both residential and commuter students and have negative test results from the Broad Institute. Classes must revert back to in person on Monday, January 24. We are also in conversations with the statewide MSCA regarding any possible impacts, and will continue to provide updates.

The MCLA COVID-19 hotline continues to be available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday for questions related to COVID-19 at 413-662-5550. You can also reach out to me directly with any questions.

Sincerely,
Gina

Gina Puc
Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
413.662.5428
375 Church Street
North Adams,
MA 01247
