

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Meredith community,

The countdown to the start of the Fall semester is on, with campus offices fully staffed beginning August 9, new students arriving on Saturday, August 14, and classes starting on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

With these dates approaching and recent announcements by the CDC and other state and local entities, we know you are anxious to know more about Meredith's COVID-19 prevention protocols for Fall 2021.

### **Academics**

Our current plan is for classes to be in face-to-face mode, with a few special exceptions made through the academic deans. Face-to-face is the term used for classes in a traditional classroom setting. Safety measures include basing room capacities off calculations that take a variety of parameters including room size, airflow, and masking protocols into account. Faculty will, again, be expected to stay at the front of the classroom, approximately 6 feet away from students.

### **Vaccination Portal**

With COVID-19 cases rising sharply, particularly among the unvaccinated, and new variants emerging, vaccinations remain our best defense against outbreaks among the Meredith community. We strongly encourage faculty, staff, and students to get vaccinated. We are also requesting that you enter your vaccination status in our private, secure portal by **Friday, July 30, 2021**. The portal can be accessed here: <https://cvdsubmit.meredith.edu/>

When you enter your status, you can elect to be part of a drawing to win prizes.

### **Testing requirements**

To help ensure the healthiest possible start to the new academic year, we are **requiring all unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff who have not been on campus regularly this summer to submit a negative PCR test 1-3 days in advance of coming to campus for the first time after August 8th**. PCR test results should be submitted through <https://cvdsubmit.meredith.edu/>. PCR testing must not be older than five (5) days from submission.

Additional information about the regularity of testing for unvaccinated students and applicable fees will be provided.

### **Face Coverings**

In keeping with the CDC's latest recommendations, Meredith will keep our indoor face-covering requirement in effect until further notice. The full set of community standards for Fall 2021 will be available on the Staying Strong website on Monday, August 2.

Thank you for your attention to this information. Best wishes for the remainder of summer. We cannot wait to kick off the new year with you soon.

--The Executive Leadership Team