

7/19/21

Meredith community,

We are four weeks from the start of fall classes, and we are thrilled to be kicking off a new academic year. As we announced [back in March](#), we are planning for a fall semester that looks much more normal than last year. The degree of normalcy will depend on a number of factors, including the percentage of our campus population that is fully vaccinated, local and state COVID-19 case numbers, the effects of variants, and your adherence to safety guidelines outlined in our Community Standards. In other words, most of this year's "normalcy" is in our own hands!

Importance of Vaccinations

The CDC, state, and Meredith's health experts agree that vaccinations are safe and our best defense against COVID-19. To keep our community safe, we anticipate requiring face coverings in classrooms, common areas of all buildings, and other spaces as needed, until our vaccination rate reaches a safe level. Once our campus face-covering mandate is lifted, unvaccinated individuals will need to continue wearing face coverings. Anyone who feels safer or more comfortable wearing a face covering should continue doing so.

Vaccine Portal

To help us calculate the vaccination rate of our community, we are asking faculty, staff, and students to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination status through our private, secure portal by July 30, 2021. This information will be reported only in the aggregate.

You can access the portal here: cvdsubmit.meredith.edu and [this short video includes instructions on how the portal works](#).

Please do not submit vaccination records directly to your supervisor, the student health center, Human Resources, or any other campus office.

Vaccine Incentives

Beginning August 1, we will hold a series of four weekly drawings for students and employees who have submitted proof of vaccination. Early vaccination and reporting through the portal increase your chances of being one of the recipients. For students, the weekly prizes will be a \$500 tuition credit and \$500 in cash. For employees, the prizes will be a \$1,000 pre-tax bonus. If you would like to participate in the drawings, check "yes" on that question when submitting your vaccination status.

Community Standards

Physical distancing will continue to be an important part of our COVID-19 mitigation strategy for the fall. The full updated set of community standards for the fall semester will be available on the [Staying Strong](#) website prior to the start of classes.

Because of your cooperation, we made it through the 2020-21 academic year with fewer than 100 student/employee/visitor COVID-19 cases. We are confident that this community will again do everything possible to protect each other while having a successful and fun year.

-The Executive Leadership Team