



DARE TO DO MORE

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to begin to provide weekly updates on Return to Campus policies and preparations in anticipation of the Fall 21 semester. I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns by writing to me here -- presidentadams@lagcc.cuny.edu

Important Dates: On May 13, Chancellor Matos Rodríguez indicated that CUNY staff will return to campus during the week of August 2. Faculty will return to campus in accordance with the academic calendar, according to the chancellor. We need more information about that. Provost Paul Arcario and I will be seeking details regarding faculty's return to campus. I will share that information with you as soon as I get it. Meanwhile, the Fall Planning Committee under Provost Arcario has been planning for the campus return of a number of classes and offices. ECP personnel will return to their offices during the week of July 19.

Campus Facilities and Safety: We will continue to make the health and safety of our campus facilities a top priority. Under the leadership of Denise Gomez, and the 29-person Return to Campus Operational Task Force, we are working to ensure that the LaGuardia campus is a place where everyone can safely learn, teach and work. In the coming weeks, Vice President of Administration and Finance Shahir Erfan will detail facility improvements made to enhance our safety. In addition, we will meet regularly with labor representatives to tour the campus, review safety protocols, and address concerns. Later this spring we will establish procedures for faculty and staff to visit campus during the summer to experience safety protocols first-hand, visit offices, and prepare to return.

Vaccinations: I join the Chancellor in strongly urging all members of our community to get vaccinated. Governor Cuomo announced that all CUNY and SUNY students must be vaccinated in order to attend in-person classes in the fall. Policies regarding mandated vaccination for staff and faculty remain TBD. Getting vaccinated is the most important step you can take to ensure our community's safety. To find out more about vaccinations visit the VaxUpCUNY website. Please tell everyone you know to get vaccinated. Period. Full stop.

Meeting Students' Needs: In surveys, LaGuardia students express broad support for in-person and hybrid classes: 58 percent of our students want their classes this fall to be in-person or hybrid. It is imperative that we build a course calendar to meet their needs. Moreover, we will never be able to address our enrollment crisis if we cannot be clear to both returning and new students about what they can expect at LaGuardia in September. Big thank you to our Academic Chairs and faculty for the work they have done to schedule in-person and hybrid classes for the fall.



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In-Person and Remote Work Arrangements: As the Chancellor noted, as we safely and gradually ramp up our in-person activities, remote work guidelines adopted during the pandemic will continue to be in effect. Our Executive Director of Human Resources, Ron Edwards, and his team are working with the University to answer your questions about CUNY's Flexible Work Guidelines, including Flexible Work Arrangements, Remote Work Guidelines and Reasonable Accommodation Requests.

Our Human Resources Office will also be taking these steps:

- 1) Conducting information sessions for faculty and staff to understand remote work requirements and protocols to follow for arranging remote work.
- 2) Assisting managers to help them respond to requests for remote work.
- 3) Working with senior campus leaders to ensure that workspaces are appropriately staffed to meet in-person student needs. We do not yet know how many course sections we will need to hold in person or hybrid to respond to student need, but we certainly understand that students and faculty will need to be able to plan where they will be attending and conducting classes. We will strive to provide as much information as soon as possible.

Stay tuned: Above I say I will provide this update weekly, and now you see why. There are still a lot of unknowns -- vaccination policies for faculty, staff, and visitors; surveillance testing; evolving social distancing mandates from the CDC; changing State and City guidance, etc. My goal is to share important information with you as quickly as I can. Apologies in advance for what may be vague, unclear, or even confusing. I promise we will figure it out in due course. And, we will forge ahead to do what is right for our LaGuardia students. As Covid-19 thankfully fades in the rear-view mirror, we look straight down the road ahead. That's Thomson Avenue in the distance.

On June 4, I will hold another Town Hall meeting. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and share your observations, opinions, and frustrations. Registration for that event is available [here](#).

Remember to visit our campus webpage to keep up-to-date with developments.

Thank you for your tireless efforts for LaGuardia and our students during these extremely difficult times. Best wishes,

Kenneth Adams
President