

Dear LaGuardia faculty and staff,

The big news this week is that CUNY has delayed our return to campus until August 16. I hope you have had a chance to read the Chancellor's message. This is a welcome development. It gives us more time to prepare for a safe and healthy return to campus.

**Verification of Vaccination Status:** It bears repeating: get vaccinated! Go to #VaxUpCUNY to learn more. As soon as you can please upload your vaccination verification documents by logging into your CUNYFirst account and clicking the Vaccine Verification link.

To learn how to submit information to CUNYfirst see this link. You will need your vaccination information, your vaccination card or record and, if you have the NY State Excelsior Pass, a scan or photo of your pass. (CUNY is working with NYS Excelsior Pass to link the pass to CUNY for validation purposes.) If you have difficulty uploading your documents try a different browser; some people have reported problems in their first attempt to upload documents.

For staff returning the week of August 16 you will need to upload your vaccination verification documents by Friday, August 6. For those starting later than August 16, the deadline for uploading vaccination information is ten days before the first week you are coming back. For example, for those coming back to campus the week of September 6, the deadline is August 26.

The CUNY Central Office is working on procedures for the verification of vaccination for individuals who are not in CUNYfirst—e.g. ACE students, Research Foundation employees, visitors to campus, et al. I hope to have more information to share with you about this soon.

**Coming to Campus if Unvaccinated:** If you are not fully vaccinated, or do not want to disclose your vaccination status, you will be required to submit a negative Covid test taken within the past seven days every time you come on campus. CUNY is contracting with Applied DNA Clinical Labs to provide testing services system-wide. We anticipate that testing will be available at LaGuardia, or at a nearby location. If you are fully vaccinated, you will be exempt from routine testing.

**Meeting with College Senators:** Late yesterday I met with the LaGuardia College Senate Committee of Staff and Alumni. Committee members asked thoughtful questions and voiced concerns regarding a range of issues, including entry protocols and logistics, mask-wearing and enforcement, vaccination verification, testing, and more. I am grateful to Erika Correa, co-chair of the Committee, for leading the meeting and ensuring that everyone got a chance to share their concerns and offer helpful suggestions.

Labor Representatives Inspect our Campus: Today our labor representatives, joined by Vice President for Administration and Finance Shahir Erfan and his team, will be inspecting the campus to provide feedback on our campus readiness. Our collaborative approach is essential to a safe reopening. I look forward to their recommendations.

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"Above and Beyond" Recognition: Beginning this week I am pleased to institute a weekly "shout out" to recognize individuals, departments, or groups that have gone above and beyond in helping to ensure a safe and successful return to campus. This week I want to recognize the Return to Campus Operational Task Force, chaired by the indomitable Denise Gomez, for their work in planning and implementing procedures that keep us all safe and healthy. Since the pandemic began in March 2020, Denise and the Task Force have been "on it" and have done an extraordinary job. From all of us at LaGuardia, thank you!

Best wishes,

Kenneth Adams President

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