



## OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Dear CUNY Community,

I hope you are all safe after the floods of Hurricane Ida that hit us on Wednesday. I appreciate all the staff who have been working to address the consequences of the storm and are helping get our campuses back on line.

I also want to thank every member of the CUNY community who has helped facilitate the start of the new academic year by uploading their vaccination documents or participating in our COVID testing program, and by keeping up with the policy updates that have been necessitated by the continuing uncertainty of the COVID situation.

Today's update includes the first batch of data we have from the University-wide COVID-19 testing program. It also includes an important change for students taking only remote classes who may want to visit a campus and information about the methods we will use to monitor and contain COVID caseloads in the coming months. Please take a moment to read all the information below so that we can continue to make our reopening as smooth as possible.

### **Testing Results**

As you know, CUNY is providing on-site testing throughout the University. The CUNY testing program enables us to identify unvaccinated individuals who are positive for COVID-19 before they enter a CUNY campus and, importantly, to track overall infection levels. Testing helps to protect the safety of our entire community, and the effort is crucial to the successful reopening of our campuses.

During the first week of classes, from August 25 to August 31, CUNY testing sites collected 10,070 tests, 34 of which came back positive. An additional 27 people who got the test for reasons other than entering a CUNY facility self-reported that they tested positive. At the end of this letter, you will see a breakdown of these numbers by college and Central. I am encouraged by these early results but we have to stay vigilant. I urge those who are still unvaccinated to get the shot, and appreciate everyone complying with the [mask mandate](#).

Starting next week and going forward, the University will provide weekly campus-by-campus testing metrics and other critical information on a new CUNY COVID-19 Safety Dashboard, which will be available on the [coronavirus page](#).

### **Contact Tracing**

The testing program also allows CUNY to conduct contact tracing when a positive case is identified. Shortly after the person who tested positive is notified directly by the Applied DNA lab, the [Coronavirus Campus Liaison](#) is also notified so that they can provide guidance to the person who tested positive and their close contacts regarding

isolation and quarantine. The colleges are careful to notify every person who needs to take action in response to an individual case. As they are following these protocols, campus liaisons are maintaining direct communication with New York City and State public health officials to ensure ongoing coordination and up-to-date advice.

### **Remote-Only Students Must be Vaccinated to Be on Campus**

I am amending the policy that permitted unvaccinated students to visit campuses if they showed proof of a negative COVID test. Starting on October 7, all students taking remote-only classes who wish to visit a campus at any point this fall for any reason must be fully vaccinated and have their vaccination documents approved in CUNYfirst — unless they have been granted a religious exception or a medical exemption. The only other exception to this change is that I have asked campus leaders to accommodate students who need to access emergency services on campus, such as food pantries and mental health services. As always, we might modify this policy as necessitated by changing public health conditions. More information about CUNY’s vaccination mandate can be found in [this FAQ](#) and for help uploading, please click [here](#).

### **Final deadline for Students to Get the Shot**

A reminder that the deadline for students who are taking in-person or hybrid classes to be fully vaccinated is October 7, and students will need to upload proof of vaccination in CUNYfirst no later than September 27. To meet this deadline, any student who is still unvaccinated will need to get the single shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine by September 23. More information about the vaccination mandate for students [is here](#).

I have had the privilege of visiting several campuses in the days since Fall classes began, and it has been gratifying to speak with those who are cautiously but optimistically returning to their classrooms, offices and laboratories for the first time in more than 17 months. I thank you for your diligence, patience and cooperation, and give you my word that we will continue working to maintain the safety of our campuses so that you can continue moving forward this Fall.

Sincerely,

Felo

### **CUNY COVID-19 Safety Tracker (Week of August 25-31)**

<b>Affiliation Location</b>	<b>Tested #</b>	<b>Positives #</b>	<b>% of Positive Tests</b>	<b>Positives from Non-CUNY Sites*</b>
Baruch College	1040	2	.2%	0
BMCC	914	3	.3%	0
Brooklyn College	480	2	.4%	0
Bronx Community College	480	1	.2%	1

Central Office, RF, Other	249	1	.4%	0
College of Staten Island	434	2	.5%	5
City College of New York	409	1	.2%	3
Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism	18	0	0	1
CUNY Graduate Center	75	0	0	0
CUNY School of Law	18	0	0	1
CUNY School of Professional Studies	37	0	0	0
CUNY Graduate School of Public Health	17	0	0	0
CUNY School of Labor & Urban Studies	12	0	0	0
Guttman Community College	14	0	0	0
Hostos Community College	393	1	.3%	0
Hunter College	1646	5	.3%	9
John Jay College	946	7	.7%	0
Kingsborough Community College	179	1	.6%	0
LaGuardia Community College	116	0	0	3
Lehman College	422	0	0	0
Medgar Evers College	213	1	.5%	1
New York City College of Technology	226	0	0	1
Queens College	276	2	.7%	1
Queensborough Community College	840	3	.4%	0
York College	616	2	.3%	1
TOTAL	10,070	34	.3%	27

*\*People who test for reasons other than entering a CUNY facility and are self-reporting to the Campus Coronavirus Liaison*