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September 23, 2021

To All Faculty and Staff,

Health is critical to learning. When we are well we can connect to others and engage in advanced cognitive tasks. Even though the data on COVID-19 vaccinations is still emerging, the evidence is clear that our best hope for addressing the health crisis that has crushed our community for the last 18 months is to encourage every member of our community to be vaccinated. The vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus, prevent hospitalization and death, and minimize the length and severity of breakthrough infections. With the vaccines, our students can stay focused on their number one task: learning.

The vaccine mandate and unenrolling unvaccinated students

CUNY has instituted a vaccine mandate for all students taking in-person or hybrid classes on campus. **September 27** is the **deadline for students to upload proof of vaccination** and October 7 is the deadline for vaccination approval by CUNY. Please remind students they can still get vaccines today at the van outside the college. Students will be dropped from in-person and hybrid classes if they do not meet the deadlines (or have an approved exemption).

While the numbers of students submitting proof of vaccination have been climbing, there will be some students who will not make the Oct 7 deadline. CUNY plans to unenroll them. We know that many of you recognize the tremendous impact this will have on students. Unenrolled students will receive a WA grade for Administrative Withdrawal, indicating failure to comply with proof of vaccination. They will lose their access to their in-person or hybrid Blackboard courses, and they will be removed from your course rosters. Students' financial aid may be impacted by the reduction in enrolled courses.

How to help unenrolled students

We need to acknowledge that students will be in distress about this and will be reaching out to trusted faculty and staff to help them stay in class. We know that our compassionate and caring faculty and staff are wonderful at creating innovative

solutions to help students succeed. However, with these Administrative Withdrawals (WA), faculty will not be able to offer individual solutions because students cannot be re-added once removed. Students will be worried about their finances and should be encouraged to check with the Office of Financial Aid to understand how this may affect their financial aid. These conversations will be difficult, but CUNY's vaccination requirement is a firm commitment to protect student health. No individual professor or staff member on our campus has the power to reverse that.

Instead, John Jay is looking to January, Spring and Summer 2022 as opportunities to help those unenrolled students recover academically. Since 2020, the college has offered no cost Summer and Winter online courses to those who have fallen behind in credit accumulation because of the pandemic. In Summer 2021, faculty across several academic programs developed workshops and clinics to help their students review and preview the critical skills of their disciplines. Lastly, we will provide additional outreach and support to these students in planning ahead for Spring registration.

Details about the CUNY vaccination mandate can be found by [clicking this link](#).

We would like to thank all of you for the work you are doing every day to support our community. We recognize that the challenges are far from over, but we also recognize your commitment. Just as we came together when this began, we will continue to work together to move forward to a healthy John Jay.

Sincerely,



Provost Yi Li