

May 25, 2021

Dear Marymount Community,

Our in-person graduation reminded me what we have been missing for the past 15 months. What a pleasure to see our seniors walk across that stage and feel their excitement in having achieved a major milestone in their lives! It reignites a sense of optimism about our future. Although public health considerations will continue to influence parts of our lives for quite some time, I know we all look forward to an even greater return to normal.

As you already know, MCU is planning significant in-person operations beginning this fall, including normal residential, co-curricular and athletic experiences for our students. We have every reason to expect the fall semester at MCU will look and feel much more like past years.

With stay-at-home orders phasing out and many of us eager to get back to our desks and face-to-face collaboration, MCU has begun a soft return to the office.

**Starting June 1, staff should have a plan in place with their supervisors about a return to work.** This will allow employees a chance to transition into new routines and provide time to arrange for transportation, childcare and other aspects of daily life altered by the pandemic. We know it will seem a bit strange at first—it has been a long time for all of us.

**By July 15, we expect a full return, with staff reporting on site to prepare for the fall semester.** We understand some employees may face unique challenges and ask that they work with their supervisors on appropriate accommodations.

**For faculty, this will look like a normal summer, and we look forward to seeing you back on campus by August 16 for our planned semester start-up.**

Please note these other important dates:

- August 1 – Athletics start and Villas open for athletes
- August 21 – Villas open for all residents
- August 23 – Classes start

Vaccinations will be a critical component in our efforts to mitigate risk and protect the health and well-being of our MCU community.

**Effective July 15, MCU will require all faculty, staff and students to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks prior to returning to campus.** This requirement will not apply to students in fully online programs or employees whose physical presence on campus is not necessary. We are already approaching 90 percent of our faculty and staff who have or plan to receive the vaccination.

Faculty, staff and students may request a medical or religious exemption to the vaccination requirement, and if approved, MCU will provide reasonable accommodations (as determined by applicable law) for those who formally document their declination.

All new and returning students who plan to register for in-person classes, live in The Villas or compete in the athletics program will need to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination to the Student Wellness Center or provide an approved exemption prior to coming on campus. Employees should submit documentation to Human Resources.

Those who fail to comply with the mandate will not be permitted in-person access to campus programs, facilities or The Villas.

The university has reached this decision based on the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and our COVID-19 Compliance Task Force, and in consultation with staff, faculty and student leaders. In addition, LA County has noted a substantial reduction in the transmission of the virus locally and a greater availability of vaccines at many locations nearby.

If you have not received your COVID-19 vaccine, please call your healthcare provider, local pharmacy or the vaccination hotline at 1-800-232-0233. Alternatively, you can visit one of these websites: [LA County Department of Public Health](#) or [Centers for Disease Control](#).

Thank you for doing your part. As a Catholic university, we aspire to not only care for our Mariner family, but also our common home, which includes all the communities in which our faculty, staff and students work to make the world a better place. As Pope Francis has so clearly taught, receiving the vaccine is not only for ourselves as individuals but also for everyone we treasure to keep them safe and healthy, and to bring back the joys of life to us all.

I hope this notice will give you a head start in your thinking and planning. A more formal policy will be provided soon. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to the months ahead as we ramp up for what promises to be an interesting and, we expect, a successful fall. This will be an important transition year for all of us.

Look forward to seeing you all back on campus.



Brian Marcotte  
President