

June 4, 2021

Dear International Students,

MCU announced on May 25, 2021 a mandatory vaccine requirement for all faculty, staff and students as we prepare for a return to campus for the Fall 2021 semester. This mandate, while it includes exceptions for valid medical and religious reasons, has been implemented to protect the MCU community as a whole.

We know that access to vaccines may vary for international students depending on your home country. The university has implemented this mandate as early as possible to give you plenty of time to get one of the World Health Organization-approved vaccines. These vaccines include:

- AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine
- Johnson & Johnson/Janssen
- Moderna
- Pfizer/BioNTech
- Sinopharm

It is our hope that your home country has access to one of these vaccines, and we are encouraging you to pursue one of these courses of vaccine prior to your return to the United States for the Fall 2021 semester. If you are planning to remain in the U.S. this summer or do not have access to any of the WHO-approved vaccines in your home country, you will be required to get vaccinated while in the U.S. or just after you arrive.

To obtain the COVID-19 vaccine when you are in the U.S., please visit the Centers for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/> or if you are in Los Angeles, please visit the county's Department of Public Health website at www.VaccinateLACounty.com. You can also text your zip code to 439929 to receive a list of locations near you. Or, you can call 1-800-232-0233. MCU will also host vaccination clinics on campus at the start of the academic year for those who still require a vaccination. Dates and times will be announced closer to the start of the academic semester in August.

Reporting Your Vaccinations and Health Records to MCU

New Students

For new MCU students, you must submit your medical information and documentation of all required vaccinations. Please complete MCU's [medical information form](#) and return it to the Student Wellness Center at wellness@marymountcalifornia.edu.

Returning Students

If you have any substantive changes to your medical history, please complete MCU's [medical information form](#) and return it to the Student Wellness Center at wellness@marymountcalifornia.edu.

If you already have your World Health Organization (WHO)-approved COVID-19 vaccine, please submit proof (a photo or .pdf file of your authorized vaccine document/card) to the Student Wellness Center at wellness@MarymountCalifornia.edu. Alternatively, you can upload your vaccination document/card by completing [this form](#). Please have your MCU email account login information ready.

Travel and Important Dates

- Move-in to the MCU Villas for new international students (which includes anyone who joined MCU as a new student since Fall 2020) – August 17, 2021
- International Student Orientation – August 18, 2021 (for all new international students since Fall 2020)
- Move-in for all returning students – August 21, 2021

While travel remains highly impacted worldwide and travel bans remain in place for some, restrictions are starting to ease. U.S. embassies are returning to normal visa processing, and global airlines are returning to normal travel routes and service. Previous travel restrictions on F-1 students from several countries have now been amended, and the government considers F-1 students a [national interest exception](#), allowing travel into the U.S. Please note this exception has an imposed date restriction of no earlier than 30 days prior to the start of classes which is August 23, 2021, meaning any student coming directly from the impacted countries to the U.S. should not plan travel before July 24, 2021. This includes new and returning students.

There has been some debate about why this would impact returning students from the previously banned countries who possess valid and active F-1 visa status. I highly encourage you to contact your local [U.S. embassy](#) for clarification on whether you are able to travel through the national interest exception prior to July 24, if you intend to return before then. Doing so without clearance may result in your inability to board your flight.

When you arrive in the United States, please keep in mind that every state has a different requirement for travelers and quarantining. To find out what each state requirement is, visit that [state's health department](#) page. In Los Angeles County, we currently have a 10-day quarantine if you have not been vaccinated. Please read the [latest travel advisory](#) for the most up to date information. Please note these rules may change in the coming days and weeks. We will do our best to keep you up-to-date. Also, note that per the Centers for Disease Control, you are still required to [provide a negative COVID-19 test](#) prior to boarding your flight to the U.S.

If you plan to live on campus and require a period of quarantine based on any of the previously established reasons, we will work with you to ensure you can do so in the Villas, our campus residences. We understand that this is a lot of information to absorb. If you have any questions as it relates to any of the information contained in this communication, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Ryan W. O'Connell
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