

August 17, 2021

Dear Mariner,

Welcome to another academic year at MCU! For those of you who are returning, I hope you had an interesting and restorative summer. For those who are new here, we are delighted to have you join us.

We've been hard at work this summer preparing for the return to in-person classes and look forward to seeing you back on campus. Vaccinations in California and Los Angeles County remain well above the national average, but we want to ensure MCU remains a safe place to live, learn and grow. With the Delta variant of the coronavirus fueling a spike in COVID cases, MCU has taken additional precautions and revisited campus policies to ensure they align with state and local public health orders. Here's what you should know.

Vaccination Requirement

Marymount will require all students, faculty and staff be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus before being allowed on campus or the Villas. Receiving a COVID vaccine continues to be the best way to mitigate the spread of the virus.

- **Students who have not yet provided proof of vaccination must do so immediately by [uploading it here](#) or sending it to the Student Wellness Center at Wellness@MarymountCalifornia.edu.**
- Students may request an exemption due to a medical reason or strongly held religious belief by Friday, August 20 at 5PM (PST). No exemption requests will be accepted after that date.
- Students who are not fully vaccinated will be dropped from any in-person classes.
- During the first week of class, students entering campus will be screened to confirm a COVID-19 vaccination is on file. Please arrive 30 minutes before your first class to ensure you are not late.
- No non-resident parking will be permitted at the Villas during the first week.

Masking Policy

In compliance with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, everyone must wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status. This includes in the classroom and café (except when seated and eating/drinking) and riding the shuttle. Masks are readily available throughout campus.

- If you're vaccinated, masks are not required outdoors but recommended when you are unable to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from others.
- If you're unvaccinated, masks are required outdoors when you are unable to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from others.
- Physical distancing is no longer required but recommended.

Screening

Before coming to campus, members of the MCU community must complete a daily symptom self-check using [this form](#). Do not come to class or work if you're sick or in isolation or quarantine.

Please review the accompanying policy for more detailed information. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact the Student Wellness Center at (310) 303-7244 or Wellness@MarymountCalifornia.edu.

Sincerely,

Ryan E. Alcantara, PhD
Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

COVID-19 Policy Updates for Students

Vaccination Policy Statement

Marymount California University requires all students, faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to access the campus, facilities and the Villas, effective July 15, 2021, unless the individual has an approved exemption.

Definitions

- Authorized vaccine: [FDA-authorized](#) or [World Health Organization-authorized](#) vaccine
- Fully vaccinated: A person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after having received the second dose in a two-dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after having received a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., Johnson & Johnson/Janssen).
- Authorized exemption: An approved waiver from the vaccination requirement based on medical or religious reasons.

Attestation

Individuals are required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

- Students can submit proof of vaccination to the Student Wellness Center or wellness@marymountcalifornia.edu.
- Students can submit proof of vaccination throughout the semester but will be considered unvaccinated until that proof is documented.
- Students failing to provide evidence they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 may be dropped from in-person classes and will be restricted from accessing in-person campus services until proof of complete vaccination status or an approved exemption is on file with the Student Wellness Center.
- Please note that falsifying a COVID-19 vaccination card is a violation of federal law. Any student found in violation of forging any university document will be subject to disciplinary action through student conduct.

Enforcement

Compliance with the policy will be required two weeks before faculty, staff and students are expected to be on campus for the fall term.

- Students who have not completed their COVID-19 vaccination series must provide a negative COVID-19 test to access in-person classes.

- Accommodations for remote access to classes will be provided for students who need to complete their vaccination series and are enrolled in in-person classes for up to two weeks. Students who require additional time to complete their COVID-19 vaccination series will be directed to online courses for the fall semester.
- International students will be allowed additional accommodations to complete their vaccinations but will be required to submit weekly negative tests for COVID-19 until they are fully vaccinated. Failure to do so will require they convert to online courses, which has a direct impact on immigration status.
- Exempted students enrolled in in-person classes must also submit weekly negative COVID-19 test results. Failure to do so will require they convert to online courses.
- MCU will offer a COVID-19 vaccination clinic and on-campus testing on August 20, 2021.
[Sign up here](#). COVID-19 vaccinations are available at no cost. Contact the Student Wellness Center for additional information on accessing COVID-19 vaccinations and/or testing.

Exemptions

MCU's COVID-19 vaccination policy will allow for medical and religious [exemptions](#). Those with approved exemptions or accommodations may return to campus with the expectation that they will remain masked in all public settings.

- The deadline to submit an exemption due to medical reasons or a strongly held religious belief has been extended to Friday, August 20, 2021 at 5PM (PST).
- No exemptions from students attending in-person classes in Fall 2021 will be considered after August 20.
- Students wishing to be exempted but have not yet filed by the extended deadline date must enroll in only online courses. In-person course offerings will not be allowed.

Masks

In compliance with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, everyone must wear a mask indoors while in public settings, regardless of vaccination status.

- Indoor public settings include classrooms, library, labs, The Commons, offices (except private offices), restrooms, cafe (except when seated and eating/drinking) and on the shuttle.
- Masks are not required outdoors for vaccinated individuals but recommended when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from others.

- Masks are required outdoors for unvaccinated individuals when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from others.
- If an individual's medical, mental health, disability or job duties (i.e., teaching in a classroom) prevents mask wearing, an effective, non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape, is permitted.
- Masks are available throughout the campus.
- Physical distancing is no longer required but efforts should be made to reduce overcrowding, particularly in indoor spaces.

Screening

- Before coming to campus, members of the MCU community must complete a daily symptom self-check using [this form](#).
- Individuals should not come to class or work if sick or in isolation or quarantine.