



**John J. Hurley**  
**President**

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August 3, 2021

Dear Members of the Campus Community,

With the spread of the more contagious Covid Delta variant, communities across the country are experiencing increases in positive Covid-19 cases among both unvaccinated and vaccinated populations. In response, the Erie County Health Department has [issued a health advisory](#) encouraging all local organizations to have employees and patrons wear masks when indoors, regardless of vaccination status. We are hereby adopting the following protocols effective immediately:

- **All Canisius College faculty, staff, students and visitors – vaccinated or not - are required to wear masks when inside campus buildings facilities and vehicles, unless you are in a private space (e.g. personal office or residence hall room). The indoor mask mandate will apply in all classrooms and laboratories this fall.**
- **Unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask and maintain social distancing everywhere on campus, inside and out. Vaccinated individuals are also encouraged to wear a mask in outdoor public spaces on campus where social distancing is not possible.**

In addition to this mask mandate, we are continuing our work on more specific guidance for students, faculty, staff and visitors to be in place for the start of the fall semester. We are dealing with a rapidly changing situation and we ask for your patience in the days ahead. At this point, we know the following:

- We are developing plans to conduct mandatory periodic testing of all unvaccinated students throughout the semester at the student's expense. More details will follow.
- All registered students – residents and commuters - who are vaccinated must upload the proof of vaccination **immediately** to [MyCanisiusHealth](#) (login required). Students who fail to provide proof of vaccination will be subject to all restrictions and requirements applicable to unvaccinated students.
- Prior to moving into the college residence halls, residential students must provide either proof of vaccine or a negative PCR test results (administered within 72 hours prior to arrival on campus) through [MyCanisiusHealth](#).
- The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) will require that student athletes receive a Covid-19 vaccine. Exemptions will be limited to medical or religious reasons only and unvaccinated students who do not qualify for an exemption will not be permitted to practice or compete.
- Canisius will resume its dashboard reporting to provide our community with information about testing and infection rates.

We are continuing to monitor developments including the final approval of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines by the Food and Drug Administration, which could cause us to require the vaccines of all students, faculty and staff.

Getting vaccinated remains the most important and effective step you can take to protect yourself and others. Vaccines have proven to be highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death. We urge all members of the Canisius community who have not yet been vaccinated to do so as soon as possible.

Please continue to visit the [Canisius website](#) for the latest information on our Covid-19 policies and protocols.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. Hurley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

John J. Hurley