



**Sandra M. Estanek, PhD
Interim Vice President**

OM 102 | phone 716-888-2130 | fax 716-888-3190 | email StudentAffairs@canisius.edu

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Email Re: Testing Protocols for Non-Vaccinated Students

Dear Canisius Students and Families:

Yesterday, September 1, 2021, was the deadline for students to upload their completed vaccination records into the MyCanisiusHealth portal. Yesterday also was the date of the on campus Pfizer vaccine clinic. **Anyone who has not uploaded information into the portal is considered non-vaccinated and will be entered into the college's testing protocol for non-vaccinated students.** Anyone who received their first shot on campus yesterday will be considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving their second shot at the follow up clinic on September 22. Those students will be required to test until they have reached the two week mark after dose #2. They also will need to upload their vaccine data into the portal when they receive the second dose. As has been stated in previous communications, including my August 27 email, the college is now implementing surveillance testing for non-vaccinated students, based upon CDC guidance.

Students who have not been vaccinated or who have not uploaded their information will be charged a \$250 Covid testing fee each semester. This fee will be added directly to the student's bill. The fee covers the cost to the college for implementing a testing protocol, which includes additional nursing staff as well as the cost of the tests.

Beginning the week of September 20, Canisius will begin testing groups of non-vaccinated students each week. Testing using the rapid antigen test will occur on campus two days per week. Students will receive notification via a college email to report to the testing center on one of two days that week. It is the responsibility of the student to check their email and to fit the testing into their class and/or work schedule. Any change of date must be requested in advance as soon as the student receives notification.

Students who become fully vaccinated and upload their information into the portal will be removed from the testing protocol. Their testing fee will be refunded on a prorated basis.

Testing is to protect the individual and the community from asymptomatic spread of Covid-19 so even those who have a medical reason not to be vaccinated will be in the testing protocol. If the student registers their medical information and documentation with the Health Center, the testing fee will be waived.

There are penalties for missing one's testing appointment. If a student misses one appointment and reschedules, it will be considered an oversight and there will be no penalty. If a

student does not reschedule and/or misses a second appointment, a \$25 no-show fee will be charged and added to the student's bill. If a student misses three appointments, they will be blocked from registering for spring semester classes and will be tested weekly for the remainder of the semester. If they have already registered for the spring, they will be withdrawn from those classes and will have to re-register. The block on the student's registration will be removed at the end of the fall semester if the student successfully completes a weekly testing protocol or demonstrates proof of vaccination.

The college continues to strongly recommend vaccination to all those who are medically able to receive it. Vaccines are free, safe, and the most effective way of mitigating illness and controlling the spread of Covid-19, including the Delta variant. For further information please go to the Canisius College website. There is a banner link to Covid policies and information on the home page.

Sincerely,

Sandra M. Estanek, Ph.D
Interim Vice President of Student Affairs