

# ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 12, 2021

Dear EC Community,

The start of the 2021-2022 academic year is rapidly approaching and we look forward to welcoming you to campus for the new year. As you may be aware, the rapid spread of the Delta variant has led to an increased number of people of all ages becoming seriously ill with COVID-19. Given that our goal is to provide a collaborative and supportive environment that enables you to become an active learner, Elmira College will require students to become fully vaccinated by October 8, prior to leaving for fall break. This measure will help ensure the campus community's health and safety so that we can have the positive in-person and interactive instruction that is integral to Elmira College.

This measure is being taken after research and consultation with public health experts and is in line with [New York State](#) and [American College Health Association](#) recommendations that point out how COVID-19 vaccinations are the safest and most effective way for higher education institutions to return to a robust on-campus experience.

As shared by Wendy Fiscus, director of health services, on August 3, **prior to the start of the Fall Term**, all students (residential and commuter) must either show proof of vaccination by uploading a copy of their vaccination card to the [Student Health Portal](#) (note, this site may not work with Internet Explorer) or upload a NEGATIVE COVID-19 test result performed within 5 days of arrival on campus to the [Student Health Portal](#).

Please note these **additional guidelines as of Aug. 11, 2021:**

1. Students who have a medical or religious reason for not getting vaccinated should submit either a [medical exemption form](#) or a [religious exemption form](#) (available on MyEC) to the Clarke Health Center. Exemption requests will be reviewed by the director of Health Services and determinations will be communicated back to the student in strict confidence.
2. Students who are not yet fully vaccinated and do not have an exemption are encouraged to sign up for the on-campus vaccine clinic, which will be held in the Rotunda of Cowles Hall. [Click here for details and the registration link.](#)
3. Any eligible students who refuse to become fully vaccinated by October 8 will need to leave campus and will forfeit a portion of their tuition, housing, and meal plan funds (according to our refund policy), as classes will be offered in-person this fall.
4. As a reminder:
  - a. Anyone who is not fully vaccinated must wear a mask indoors and outdoors. People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.
  - b. All members of the campus community (students, faculty and staff) will be subject to random COVID-19 testing regardless of vaccination status.

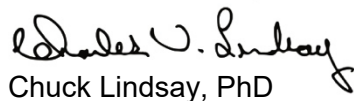
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This information along with all of our COVID-19 guidelines and documentation, including answers to frequently asked questions, is available on the [EC website](#) and [MyEC](#). These locations serve as our central communications hub for COVID-19-related announcements. You can also send questions to [covid19@elmira.edu](mailto:covid19@elmira.edu).

We are excited for everyone's return for Fall Term and are appreciative of your patience and flexibility as the pandemic continues to evolve quickly. We will continually review our guidelines and communicate necessary changes. We hope that by taking appropriate measures to vaccinate we can have a more open campus and reduce restrictions this academic year.

Sincerely,



Chuck Lindsay, PhD  
President