

School of Education  
Office of the Dean

**Re-opening Updates (September 21, 2021\*)**

Q&A

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

**Campus Specific**

- When will our hybrid classes be approved to meet on campus?
  - Each week the college is reviewing the hybrid classes to determine whether the course is ready to meet on campus. The determination is made based on the number of students who have uploaded their vaccination status in relation to the size of the room.
  
- Who will let us know when our hybrid course is approved?
  - The Dean of Education has been emailing faculty directly as soon as the course is approved.
  
- Are classes going to be fully in person for spring 2022?
  - CUNY expects campuses to be 70% in person, excluding hybrid classes, in the spring 2022. All full-time faculty are expected to return to campus and must teach at least one in-person course.
  
- How will we know if students and faculty are vaccinated or have taken their weekly test?
  - Students' status is known only to the public safety staff through the Q-card and now Cleared4 Pass. Students unvaccinated without exemption and/or who have tested positive are not allowed on campus.
  
- Do we see the exemption when they attend class?
  - Faculty are not privy to this information.
  
- Is testing available on campus to link results to QC ID card? Do students need to get tested on their own?
  - Yes, test results are linked to the Q-card. Students must test at a CUNY approved site. <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/covid-19-testing-program-facultyandstaff-faq/>
  
- For campus access can we still use our Q-Cards or do we need to now use CLEARED4?
  - We will continue to use your Q-card. The Cleared4 Pass to access campus is for staff and students who are testing. It replaces EverBridge.

- Although you may be vaccinated, do you have to accept the disclaimer for voluntary consent to participate in pooled testing for COVID-19?
  - CUNY may begin random testing.
  
- Will students who have one shot by 09/27 definitely be dropped?
  - CUNY has stated that students may be withdrawn from classes after 9/27 if they have not shown that they are fully vaccinated or have been approved for a religious or medical reason.
  - CUNY language to date: Further, students taking in-person or hybrid classes who fail to follow the vaccine mandate after full FDA approval is granted will be subject to potential academic withdrawal that could also impact their financial aid and might not be eligible for refunds for the course. CUNY is committed to providing exceptions and medical exemptions when appropriate.
  - IF YOU A STUDENT HAS INFORMED YOU THAT THEY WILL NOT BE FULLY VACCINATED BY 9/27, PLEASE SPEAK WITH YOUR CHAIR; WE ARE COMPILING THAT INFORMATION NOW.

## IT

- If we come to campus, will there be IT support?
  - Yes. The first time you come to campus, you should expect that you might need to submit a ticket for IT support. You should not expect that your issues will be addressed, however, that same day.
  
- I put in a ticket for IT but have not gotten a response. What should I do?
  - Please resubmit your ticket to IT. They are very short staffed and doing the best they can. Gentle reminders are acceptable.

## Social Distancing

- Do you need to have the 6ft distance requirements for ALL students? If not, how do you know who is vaccinated and needs the distance requirements?
  - Only unvaccinated students must socially distance themselves. However, you may not ask students about their vaccination status. You can make an announcement in class about the policy to socially distance.
  
- Do professors have to wear masks while teaching?
  - All members of the QC community must wear a mask in all indoor shared spaces as well as outdoors when social distancing is not possible.

## Clinical Placements

- What is the protocol for students that need to student teach in DOE schools, but has a religious exemption for not taking the vaccine?
  - The DOE is not accepting any exemptions.

- If a student has an approved medical or religious exemption, can they complete NYS student teaching requirement using the CUNY VAT form and video analysis?
  - NYSED requires some direct interaction with students but does not specify the number of hours that should be direct or indirect.
  
- When will supervisors be able to go into the schools to do observations?
  - That is the call of the school's principal. Speak to your Clinical Professor of your area.
  
- What should students do then if DOE does not accept exemptions? Any suggestions?
  - Students received an exemption from vaccination must continue to test weekly. They can attend sites that allow for weekly testing such as Nassau and Suffolk counties, some charter schools, etc. There are only a dozen such cases thus far across the School of Education. Individual accommodations for these students will be sought.
  
- What districts in Nassau do we now have a liability agreement?
  - As soon as the Dean receives the agreement with Nassau County schools from CUNY Central, information will be shared.
  
- If we don't know who has an exemption, how would we know that they can't be placed in DOE?
  - The DOE will know that by virtue of what the students do or do not upload in the DOE's Galaxy system. We presume such students will also need to reach out to the Clinical Professors for guidance.

NEW 9/21/2021

CUNY added the Waiver language to their guidance this week. Please see below.

Working in collaboration with the CUNY Office of General Counsel, **we recommend** the following guidance for any students who are participating in field or clinical placements in **Fall 2021** that are facilitated, funded, or directly arranged by campus staff. This language is consistent with the assumption of risk/waiver that is part of the Domestic Travel Policy. The language below may be included, or modified for inclusion, into field or clinical placement documents that campuses use with their students, at the discretion of the program:

“In signing this Agreement, I acknowledge that I understand that my participation in an in-person field or clinical placement will involve risks and hazards not found in remote study at the College. In ordinary times, these risks can range from a) minor injuries and illness such as bruises, and strains, to b) major injuries and illness such as broken limbs, loss of sight, neck or back injuries, heart attacks, and concussions, to c) catastrophic injuries,

including paralysis and death, and also include risks of damage to or theft of personal property, and risks involved in traveling to and within, and returning from, internship sites or clinical placements. I understand that COVID-19 presents unique health risks, especially to those with underlying conditions, and that there may be other risks not known or reasonably foreseeable. I have sought and obtained information and advice that I feel are necessary and appropriate. I VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS IN PARTICIPATING IN THE field or clinical placement and my participation in the assigned placement described below is voluntary.”

\* This document emerged from the Open Forum organized by Dean Fusco on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and encompasses the questions asked of faculty on that date and the answers provided. As you know information is changing quite frequently. This Q&A will be updated as necessary.