



JOHNSON & WALES
UNIVERSITY

PROVIDENCE CAMPUS

Marie Bernardo-Sousa, LP.D. '92
Providence Campus President

Memo

To Providence Campus Community

From Marie Bernardo-Sousa, LP.D. '92

Date May 11, 2021

Re Students: COVID-19 Vaccine Required for Fall 2021

Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, the university has acted in accordance with public health and government guidance as we have prioritized the health and wellbeing of the Johnson & Wales community. The safety of the JWU community is a shared responsibility as we live by the tenets of the Wildcat Way. By following the health protocols put in place, we have protected ourselves, our classmates, faculty and staff, and our friends, family and neighbors.

In addition to wearing masks, social distancing and more frequent hand washing and sanitizing, the COVID-19 vaccine gives us another tool to protect ourselves and those around us. Now that everyone 16 years and older in every state is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, we can take the next step to get to the other side of the pandemic. According to news reports, there is an ample supply of the vaccine in many communities.

After careful consultation with government and public health officials, the university will require that all students be **fully vaccinated** for COVID-19 (i.e., that students have received one or two doses of the vaccine, in accordance with the number of doses recommended by the manufacturer) prior to their arrival to campus for the 2021 fall semester. Students are asked to upload into their electronic medical record (through the Mediat Student Patient Portal) confirmation of their COVID-19 vaccination (excluding any medical information other than evidence of their vaccination). To those students who have received the vaccine and inputted their information – thank you for doing your part to help us all return to normal.

Students requesting an exemption from this requirement for medical, religious or other reasons must complete and submit the form located on the Mediat Student Patient Portal: jwu.medicatconnect.com. Students enrolled in online degree programs and individuals participating in online-only continuing education programs will not be required to be vaccinated unless they come to campus to visit (for instance, to use the dining, library, fitness center, and other facilities.) Students in Rhode Island can go

online at vaccinateri.org to schedule an appointment. More information about expectations for the fall will be communicated in the coming weeks. Students who have questions about the vaccine requirement and exemption process can call 1-800-342-5598 or submit their question through a form located on the covid.jwu.edu website – scroll down to the section: “Ask Us a Question.”

Adding the COVID-19 vaccination to our student immunization requirements will aid our efforts to provide a safer and more robust college experience for our entire JWU community. Through widespread vaccination, we can work to accelerate the return to a more traditional college experience, including increased in-person course offerings, more on-campus events and activities, and the resumption of our on-campus visitor and guest policy. In addition, having a fully vaccinated student body may limit the potential need to quarantine in response to students being exposed to COVID-19, disrupting their in-person classes and campus activities.

The university continues to strongly encourage all staff and faculty, especially those whose work requires them to be on campus, to be vaccinated for COVID-19 as soon as possible; you can check vaccinateri.org for available appointments.

We will continue to share updates on how COVID-19 may impact the fall semester on our website: covid.jwu.edu. Please continue to check this website, your JWU email, jwuLink and the JWU Mobile app for information and ongoing updates regarding the fall semester.

Throughout these months of the pandemic, we have looked out for each other, united in a common goal to stay healthy so we could successfully complete the academic year. We look forward to more normal times for the fall 2021 semester as the JWU community and those around us become fully vaccinated.