



Memo

To University Community

From Christopher Harwood
Director of Emergency Management

Date December 13, 2021

Re A Safe and Healthy Holiday Season

This week, our fall semester comes to a close. We would like to thank every member of our Johnson & Wales community for cooperating with all precautions that have made the first half of our academic year a safe and successful one as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Last month, the new Omicron variant was reported to the World Health Organization. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to study the spread and severity of Omicron, it is advised that **vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from COVID-19, slow transmission, and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging**. As a community, it is important that we not let down our guard and continue to maintain all basic health practices to protect ourselves.

- If you are ill, please stay home and contact your healthcare provider.
- Continue to wash your hands often.
- Wear a mask in indoor group settings.
- With flu season upon us, consider a flu vaccine.

Student reminder: all unvaccinated students will be asked to provide a point of origin test, uploaded to the Medicat portal in January when you return or by January 7 for those staying on campus over the holiday. You will also be expected to continue to participate in ongoing sentinel testing throughout the spring semester.

We encourage all of our community members to obtain a booster shot over this long break if it has been at least six months since you were fully vaccinated against COVID-19. By following these guidelines and being vaccinated for COVID-19 and the flu, you can protect yourself and those around you.

With all the [COVID protocols](#) we have put in place, including sentinel testing, our positivity rate has remained very low throughout the fall. For the spring semester, we will continue those practices including

mask wearing and the daily symptom screening. In the event of a significant spike, whether from Omicron or due to noncompliance of protocols, additional restrictions may need to be imposed for the entire community.

Again, we want to thank you for your continued care and cooperation to keep our community safe. Let's continue to be vigilant so we can come back to a strong spring semester.

Sending you warm wishes this holiday season, and we look forward to a new year full of promise and purpose.