



JOHNSON & WALES
UNIVERSITY

CHARLOTTE CAMPUS

Sandra G. Affenito, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor, Academic Administration

Memo

To Charlotte Campus Community

From Sandra G. Affenito, Ph.D.

Date December 21, 2021

Re COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Required

To continue to create a safe and healthy campus environment for all, **the university is now requiring all faculty, staff, and students who do not have an exemption approved by health services (students) or Human Resources (faculty and staff) due to medical or religious reasons to receive a COVID-19 booster shot if it has been six months since their last vaccine dose.**

The efficacy and widespread acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine has allowed us to return to a certain level of normalcy with limited restrictions. In July, the university announced that it would require the university community as a whole to be vaccinated against COVID-19. While experts have said that COVID-19 vaccines are effective in preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death, public health experts are starting to see reduced protection against variants, including the Omicron variant, making booster shots a vital part of the ongoing effort to keep our campus community safe.

To help ensure that there is no interruption to your work or studies, the deadline to receive your booster shot will be March 1 or within 30 days of you becoming eligible of receiving a booster. We encourage you to get your booster, if eligible to do so, before returning to campus in January for the spring semester. Vaccine boosters are available by appointment – you can check with your healthcare provider, your local pharmacy, or on [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to schedule yours. After receiving the booster, students must upload that information to the [Medicat](#) portal; faculty and staff must upload their booster information to [HRpulse](#).

Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, the university has followed public health and government guidance as we have prioritized the health and wellbeing of the Johnson & Wales community. With all the [COVID protocols](#) we have put in place, including sentinel testing, our positivity rate has remained below 1% throughout the fall. We will continue those practices – including mask-wearing, the daily symptom screening, and weekly sentinel testing for unvaccinated community members – heading into our spring semester, as concerns remain surrounding the rapid spread of the Omicron variant and

breakthrough cases of COVID-19. By being vaccinated, you are helping to protect yourself, as well as members of the JWU community and those around you. We have remained so very vigilant in maintaining a safe community for all. Together, we can continue that effort and return for a strong and successful spring semester.