Dear Campus Community,

Today we posted the college's Fall 2021 Restart Plan and Guidance, the framework that will govern our return to campus and start of classes beginning next month.

The restart plan was developed by working groups of campus leaders. It has been reviewed by SUNY, the Clinton County Health Department and various stakeholders across campus. Its overarching purpose is to ensure we operate with a clear focus on the health and safety of each of us and the wider Plattsburgh community. This has been my priority since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020.

Much has changed over the summer due to the evolving nature of COVID and the growing prevalence of variants of concern. We are planning accordingly and putting requirements into place that follow the best direction available, understanding some aspects may change as we proceed this fall.

Though I encourage you to read the plan online, I want to point out three key elements:

- **Vaccine requirements.** Vaccinations are required for students participating in certain portions of campus life due to the heightened health and safety considerations in these areas. This includes those living in on-campus housing and those participating in collegiate, club, and intramural sports. Students are afforded exemptions for both medical and religious purposes, as well as temporary exemptions while completing the full vaccination process. These are detailed in the restart plan. The requirement that all SUNY Plattsburgh students who access any campus facilities in person be fully vaccinated will take full effect when at least one COVID-19 vaccination receives full FDA approval, per New York State guidance. Prior to approval, students are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated for the health and safety of themselves and their communities. The benefits of vaccination and more are detailed online at [www.suny.edu/knowyourvax/](http://www.suny.edu/knowyourvax/).

- **Health Screening and Testing.** Although mandatory daily health screenings are no longer required for vaccinated individuals, all of us are reminded to check our health before entering campus buildings. Daily screening will continue for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals through signage posted at the entrance of all campus buildings instructing individuals to not enter if they answer “yes” to any of the questions. Mandatory weekly surveillance pool testing will also continue for unvaccinated / partially vaccinated employees and students.

- **Indoor masking.** Due to the increased prevalence of the new variants and recommendations in the most recent CDC guidance, as the semester begins the campus will return to requiring face coverings indoors. This will require everyone on campus to wear a mask while indoors regardless of vaccination status. This will be effective beginning Monday, Aug. 23 as campus density and semester operations gear up. It will remain in place through at least the first two weeks of classes (through Sunday, Sept. 12 for fully vaccinated individuals). During this time, the mask mandate will be evaluated based on the campus’ vaccination status, positivity rate and other factors. The status will be communicated to campus. Unvaccinated individuals will continue to be required to wear masks.
As we have done, we will continue to regularly evaluate health and safety requirements, follow state and local Health Department directions and keep your well being at the center of our work.

Alexander Enyedi
President