

TOGETHER WE ARE #ANCHOR STRONG

Faculty and Staff Town Hall
Meeting Regarding Our Fall
Plan

August 23, 2021

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MODIFIED START TO FALL SEMESTER. CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8.

Goal: To increase rates of vaccination within the RIC student population

- Modification provides additional time for students to complete the vaccination requirement and upload all necessary documents into the MediCat system

Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of September 6 and ends on the evening of September 8. Faculty and staff are expected to allow for observance of the holiday in planning.

This decision does not disrupt normal campus operations. Campus remains open.

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INCREASE RATES OF VACCINATION

- All RIC students be fully vaccinated or have at least one shot prior to starting in-person classes
- All RIC students have a negative COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours before starting in-person classes
- 72% of RIC students have met vaccination requirements
- All residential students and student-athletes have met vaccination requirements
- Working Group focused on targeted outreach to remaining students
 - Aug 30-Sept 1: Vaccination Clinic and One Stop Shop
 - Ongoing: Emails, text alerts, social media, phone calls, and personal outreach to first generation and historically marginalized students

Students who are not vaccinated, and do not have an approved medical or religious exemption will not be allowed to participate in any in-person activities. They may register for fully-online courses

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ENSURE WORKPLACE AND CLASSROOM READINESS

- Required weekly testing for students who are not fully vaccinated or exempted
- Implemented the state's masking requirement throughout the campus community
- Implemented social distancing throughout campus buildings
- Required self-screening by RIC campus community members
 - Staff to check in with supervisors
- Encouraging smaller group meetings
- Assuring recommended air quality standards

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ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION

- Working group created to address classroom issues
- Academic Calendar
- Decreased classroom capacity (10' distancing for faculty in the front of the classroom and 3-6' distancing between students seated in classrooms)
- Encouraged hybrid solutions for pedagogy and spaces not well suited to social distancing
- Clinical courses in Nursing and Social Work will begin on August 30
- Assure classroom mitigations are in place: distancing, air quality

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HUMAN RESOURCES

There will be some individuals for whom teaching in person or working in a public facing staff position present enough of a risk to merit allowing remote work:

- Persons with noted immunocompromised health conditions
- Persons with noted immunocompromised health conditions in their household
- Persons over the age of 65

*This does not apply to essential employees

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Alternative solutions available: teleworking, hybrid or online instruction. Additional information on how to request accommodations is forthcoming from the Office of the Provost and Human Resources.

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TECHNOLOGY

- If mobile hotspots, laptops, cameras or other technology is needed, please contact the [ITS Help Center](#) at helpdesk@ric.edu, or call (401) 456-8803 to arrange for loaner equipment

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Next Steps

- Continue to work on student vaccination rate
- Continue to work on academic instruction with appropriate distancing
- Continue to work on classroom and office mitigations
- Please send questions to “Stay Informed” by Thursday, August 26
- Final Opening Plan will be completed early next week
- Academic Committee will work with Deans, Department Chairs and faculty to resolve modality issues
- Vaccination Working Group will continue to drive up vaccination rate through the opening of school

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Questions?

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