



## Office of the President

July 25, 2021

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Since the State of California reopened, things have been changing rapidly. While the positivity rates have significantly increased, the data continues to show the effectiveness of the current COVID-19 vaccinations. As Dr. Ferrer said recently, this is quickly becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated. Today I am writing to you to ask that you vaccinate if you have not done so. As you will see in the numbers below, 99% of the current COVID-19 cases are unvaccinated individuals. In the meantime, whether you are vaccinated or not, please do remember to mask indoors and continue to take all precautions necessary to stay healthy.

### **Please get vaccinated.**

[This link provides 16 walk-in locations within 5 miles of the college – no appointment needed.](#) Student Health Services offers the Moderna vaccine, too; call (562) 860-2451 Ext. 2321 (option 3) to schedule an appointment. LA County has a great FAQ sheet, which explains how the three different vaccines work: [see pages 3-4.](#)

**Unvaccinated individuals continue to be at a very high risk of contracting COVID-19.** In Los Angeles County, between December 7, 2020 and June 7, 2021:

- 99.6% of nearly 437,000 cases were unvaccinated individuals.
- 98.7 % of 12,900 hospitalizations were unvaccinated people.
- 99.8% of 12,234 deaths were unvaccinated people. (Source: [LA DPH](#))

I respectfully ask you to consider the following:

- **Fully vaccinated individuals continue to receive protection from COVID-19.** Vaccinated individuals can still contract COVID-19 and breakthrough cases are expected; that being said, the CDC indicates that reported positive breakthrough cases leading to hospitalization or death account for just .003% of the vaccinated population as of July 12, 2021 (nationwide). ([CDC](#))
- **Fully vaccinated rates at a glance** (as of July 22, 2021):
  - Nationwide: 48.8% ([CDC](#))
  - California: 61.7% ([CA DPH](#))
  - LA County: 69.9% ([LA DPH](#))
  - Cerritos CCD Cities: between 60.7%-79.5% ([LA DPH](#))
- **The Delta variant is highly contagious.** It is the prevalent strain of COVID-19 in the nation, in the state, and in LA County. Current evidence indicates that vaccines approved under Emergency Use Authorization are effective against the variant. ([CDC](#), [CA DPH](#), and [LA DPH](#))

- LA County positive COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths **are rising** in recent weeks, but have not yet rose to the levels of one year ago, when the COVID-19 vaccine was not yet available. ([LA DPH](#))
  - A year-to-year comparison helps us contextualize current COVID-19 data:

	July 15, 2020	July 15, 2021	% Change
Daily Cases	3,006	1,647	-45.2%
Daily Deaths	37	4	-89.2%
Daily Hospitalizations	2,122	462	-78.2%
Daily Positive Tests	3743	2340	-37.5%
Daily Percent Positive Tests	7%	5%	-2.0%

- It is important to remember that approximately 99.6% of positive cases today are among unvaccinated individuals!
- LA County is now a hotspot or “area of concern” in the nation due to a rapid rise in cases. ([CDC](#))
- Because of the alarming increase of COVID-19 infection and the very real health risks to the almost 4 million people in L.A. County who have not been or are not eligible to be vaccinated, LA County once again requires masking for everyone while indoors, regardless of vaccination status. This mandate went into effect on July 17, 2021. (Source: [LA DPH](#))

I appreciate you taking the time to read through this email. I am always willing to answer questions or talk about concerns. You can also reach the [Student Health Services](#) office with questions at (562) 860-2451, extension 2321 (press option 3). Don’t forget that they offer the Moderna vaccine, too.

Thank you,  
Jose

Jose L. Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
President/Superintendent