



## MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Department Chairs, Faculty and Graduate Assistants  
From: Donald H. DeHayes, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Date: August 27, 2021  
Re: COVID Planning Update

As you know, classes start on September 8, 2021, and I want to ensure you are aware of some encouraging COVID-related data and planning that relate to students and faculty:

- At this time, 98% of registered new and returning students have either uploaded their COVID vaccination information or have requested an exemption. Fewer than 300 students have yet to respond and they are being aggressively pursued. Students who do not comply with this requirement will have a hold placed in e-campus and will not be allowed on campus and cannot attend classes. There will be regular updates on the compliance rates over the next two weeks.
- Of the more than 15,000 students who have complied, more than 93% have been vaccinated and approximately 6% to 7% have requested a medical or religious exemption.
- All URI students who are unvaccinated and who have an approved medical or religious exemption from the URI COVID-19 vaccine requirement must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 point-of-origin test taken no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival on campus or back to the community. Students who do not comply with this requirement will not be allowed on campus and cannot attend classes.
- URI will open an asymptomatic COVID surveillance testing center in the Memorial Union on September 1, which will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The testing center is available to all members of the community; students, faculty, and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are encouraged to participate in asymptomatic testing.
- All students with an approved COVID-19 vaccine exemption MUST participate in testing for COVID-19 on campus TWICE PER WEEK or face suspension for the semester. This will allow early detection and help prevent transmission of the virus within the community.
- Students who live in the residence halls and Greek housing and have tested positive will be moved to isolation housing for a period of 10 days.
- For students who have already returned to campus as well as any students, faculty, or staff exhibiting symptoms, testing is offered at URI Health Services weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and can be scheduled by calling 401-874-2246. Testing over the holiday weekend, on Saturday, September 4 through Monday, September 6, will be 10:30 am to 3:00pm. Beginning September 7, symptomatic testing will be available 7 days per week except State holidays.
- Any student who applied for an exemption and does not comply with the mandatory COVID-19 testing requirement will be immediately referred to the Dean of Students office and given ONE official WARNING about their missed test.

- Students who applied for an exemption that do NOT get tested within the notified 24 hours of a missed test, or have a second missed test, will be referred to the Office of Community Standards for a conduct meeting and placement on probation until in compliance. Students who miss a third test will be referred to the Community Standards office, placed on immediate emergency suspension and a conduct hearing will be held regarding permanent suspension.
- Students who refuse to cooperate with URI or Rhode Island Department of Health contact tracers will be placed on emergency suspension. Students who refuse to comply with directives to vacate campus in the event of an exposure and the need to isolate or quarantine will be placed on emergency suspension.
- We want to clearly communicate that the entire COVID-19 conduct process will move swiftly and could result in a non-compliant student being suspended within three days. For example, an unvaccinated student who misses their testing on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be placed on emergency suspension on Thursday pending a conduct meeting regarding permanent suspension.
- Courses should proceed this semester in the modality that they were approved and listed in the course offerings from which students registered. Faculty are entrusted to use their best judgment in making short-term (e.g., one or a few class meetings) adjustments to their courses so they can be attentive to any family health issues at home and not able to meet their commitments to both their families and students during this challenging time. Such adjustments might include alternative assignments, guest lecturers, student workgroups, remote delivery, etc. as during course interruptions in pre-Covid times. These short-term adjustments should be accessible and clearly communicated to students enrolled in the course with notification also provided to your chair and dean.

As always, thank you for your dedication and participation, and please circulate this information to all faculty members. For the latest updates, please refer to [web.uri.edu/healthservices/covid-19/](http://web.uri.edu/healthservices/covid-19/)

c: Dr. Marc Parlange, President, URI  
Dr. Audrey Cardany, President, Faculty Senate  
Dr. Michael Rice, Vice President Faculty Senate  
Dr. Jay Walsh, Executive Director, AAUP-URI  
Dr. Miriam Reumann, President, AAUP-URI  
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