



8/24/2021 Email from Dr. Stevens to Students

Dear College of Saint Mary Students:

First of all, welcome to our new students and welcome back to those of you returning as we begin classes tomorrow! We are looking forward to seeing you on campus. And, for those of you who already started we are glad for your presence...and we also know that some of you are in fully online programs and we may never see you face to face, but please know we are thinking about you too.

While this year promises to allow us fewer interruptions due to the pandemic, we still must remain cautious because COVID continues to flex its muscle.

While many in our CSM community have been vaccinated we know some have not. Thus, since our first priority is the health and safety of our campus community, we have established the following guidelines.

Should you have any questions, please send them via the health question form at [LINK](#). This site will also contain any updates regarding covid as we move through the semester.

College of Saint Mary is following the directives from the Douglas County Health Department regarding the wearing of masks and expecting vaccinations.

All faculty, staff, students and visitors are expected to wear masks when inside any campus building except when eating, drinking or exercising. Exceptions will only be made by the President's Office. The only one so far is for the chorus. They may practice and sing without masks. We will follow this policy as long as Douglas County Health continues to recommend the wearing of masks indoors.

You may encounter faculty who would prefer to teach without a mask but in order to teach without the mask, they must be at least six feet away from the students. Microphones are available in the classrooms to assist faculty if needed.

Please be attentive to the following:

*If you are vaccinated and exposed to a COVID positive person, you need not quarantine unless you have symptoms. However, it would be best, if you have been exposed and you are vaccinated, to get tested within 3 – 5 days.

If you are not vaccinated and you are exposed, please quarantine for 10 days if you have not been tested, or get tested on day 5 and if negative, quarantine for two more days. If test is positive, isolate for at least 10 days.

In order for students to receive permission to zoom into class they must email proof of a positive COVID test to Mary Barber (mbarber@csm.edu) in the Academic Affairs Office. We ask that they fill out the health form as well. All their faculty will be notified and we will do contact tracing as needed.

All faculty, staff and students are expected to be vaccinated. Health Professions students are required to be vaccinated. There are no religious or medical exceptions for those in the health professions programs given the need for students to do their clinical work in patient care.

We will send out a survey yet this week and provide incentives for faculty, staff and students to tell us if they are vaccinated. Those taking the survey may remain anonymous; however, the incentive to take the survey will be several \$250.00 gift cards and if you want to be in the drawing, you will need to put your name and email. Understanding the percentage of students, faculty and staff vaccinated will help us to make good decisions about how we might prevent infections within the campus community.

I cannot stress enough the importance of being vaccinated. I truly believe our contribution to public health is a moral imperative. The virus has already killed millions across the globe and hundreds of thousands in the United States. The fewer people vaccinated, the more opportunity for the virus to continue to mutate into even more dangerous strains.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. We are all looking forward to a more nearly normal semester.

And, I hope to greet many of you in the coming days.

Dr. Stevens

Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM
President
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