

Dear Members of the Keystone Community:

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and staying safe and healthy. Soon, it will be time for our fall semester to begin on Monday, August 30, 2021.

As we have previously announced, Keystone will resume our traditional face-to-face classes this fall. We have also previously noted that we would keep you informed of any updates regarding our health and safety protocols for the fall semester.

Pennsylvania has currently lifted its requirements regarding mask-wearing and social distancing. As a result, Keystone has also updated its guidelines. The updated policy can be viewed [here](#).

We also expect the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to lift its “emergency authorization” status for COVID-19 vaccines, possibly as early as this summer although we do not know that conclusively. This change will place the COVID-19 vaccine in the same “non-emergency use” category as vaccines for diseases such as mumps/measles/rubella, tetanus, and meningitis. When the federal “emergency use” authorization is lifted, Keystone College will require that all students receive an authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

As most vaccines are a two-dose process, we will allow a maximum two-month time period for students to become “fully vaccinated” once the FDA lifts its “emergency authorization” status for COVID-19 vaccines. All students attending in-person fall classes will be expected to input their vaccination information into the Keystone College health portal. The health portal will be available to all students attending in-person classes by August 15. Online students do not need to input health records. Students who have questions or need assistance with the health portal can contact Carla Salsman at 570-945-8255 or [carla.salsman@keystone.edu](mailto:carla.salsman@keystone.edu). For students who have medical or religious reasons to be exempt from receiving the vaccination, the Counseling and Well-Being Center staff will provide a waiver for students to complete. This exemption will follow the same format as the meningitis waiver already in place for resident students.

In the meantime, we hope that Keystone College students will be proactive by receiving their COVID-19 vaccination and updating the health portal accordingly. To reward students for completing this process, the College will be offering a variety of raffle prizes and other incentives for students who have completed this important step, including chances to win a free room on campus or free parking for the year.

More detailed information about our student vaccination policy will be announced in the future and we will keep the campus community informed about new developments regarding COVID-19. For now, we want to let you know of our planned policy for the upcoming semester and encourage you to get your COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible. As always, we are taking these actions to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our campus community. We can't wait to see everyone in the fall as we return to our normal classroom and campus routines.

Sincerely,

Tracy L. Brundage, Ph.D.  
President