



## Memorandum

Cleveland Institute of Art | 11610 Euclid Avenue | Cleveland, Ohio 44106

**To:** Students, Faculty and Staff  
**From:** Grafton J. Nunes, President + CEO  
**Date:** July 30, 2021  
**Subject:** COVID-related mandates and updates for Fall 2021 semester

Dear CIA Community,

Thank you to all who took the Fall 2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Survey. The results are encouraging. The response rate was significantly higher than in the spring, and of those students, faculty and staff who responded, 91 percent said they've been vaccinated. I'm grateful for the sense of care and concern our community members have shown for each other.

It's with that same sense of responsibility that I write today. Simply put, the threat posed by COVID's Delta variant is too great to ignore. What we're seeing across the country and here in [Cuyahoga County](#) is that cases are spiking, especially among those who are not vaccinated. The situation has grown so dire that the [CDC revised its masking guidelines](#) to recommend that even fully vaccinated people wear a mask while indoors to help prevent the spread of this highly transmissible variant.

As a result, our COVID Task Force has decided to strengthen some of CIA's protocols for the sake of our community's overall health and safety. Most notably, this pertains to vaccinations and masking, which are outlined below. We're doing so alongside many other colleges and universities, including Case Western Reserve University, whose decisions about vaccines and face coverings informed ours since our communities—classes, services, facilities—are so closely tied.

Additional updates for Fall 2021 semester—concerning topics such as building access, COVID testing, quarantine/isolation protocols and more—can be found at [cia.edu/covid](#).

### Vaccinations

For Fall 2021 semester, CIA students, faculty and staff will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or receive an approved exemption. We realize that the [start of the semester](#) is only a few weeks away and that time is short. Therefore, for those who receive a two-dose vaccination, we require only that they have at least their first dose by the time they arrive on campus.

Details on how CIA will verify vaccination statuses and on how to formally request a medical or religious exemption are still to come. Those who receive an exemption will be required to submit to weekly COVID testing.

Students, faculty and staff who do not comply with CIA's vaccine mandate will not be allowed on campus. As a reminder, you're considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the final doses of your vaccine (two doses for Pfizer and Moderna; one dose for Johnson & Johnson). Ohioans still in need of a vaccine can start their search for one [here](#). Those living elsewhere in the U.S. can search [here](#).

Please note that CWRU recently implemented its own vaccination mandate. Details on how this affects CIA students and instructions for complying with CWRU's mandate can be found at [cia.edu/covid](http://cia.edu/covid). Please note that action is required by affected students, faculty and staff no later than Monday, August 16.

### **Face Coverings**

Complementing the vaccine mandate will be a continuation of our mask mandate. We acknowledge that three-quarters of our survey respondents were in favor of lifting the mask mandate, but the COVID Task Force believes that keeping it in place best protects the well-being of our community, including those among us who are immunocompromised.

Mask requirements will remain in place for people who are indoors on campus. Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth when in hallways, studios, classrooms, offices, galleries and all common areas, including lounges, restrooms and elevators. Masks may be removed if a person is eating while also maintaining a safe physical distance of 6 feet and/or if an employee or student is working alone in a private office, cubicle or studio.

As a reminder, masks must be worn over the nose and mouth. Masks may be removed briefly when eating or drinking.

CIA community members and visitors who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask when outdoors on campus. Those who aren't fully vaccinated, or who aren't vaccinated at all, may remove their masks outdoors only if they maintain a safe physical distance of 6 feet.

Decisions regarding our protocols were not made lightly. There was much discussion over the course of several weeks. Ultimately, we believe that the policies outlined in this memo and at [cia.edu/covid](http://cia.edu/covid) put us in the best position to safely navigate the upcoming semester. Of course, as it has throughout the pandemic, our COVID Task Force will regularly monitor developments and could revisit the protocols should circumstances dictate at the campus, local or state level.

Lastly, as fall semester begins, let us keep these two things in mind: Firstly, and most obviously, the pandemic has taken a toll on many of us. Some have personally fought the virus, others have watched it attack loved ones, and yet others have endured its economic repercussions. Secondly, emerging from a pandemic is a first for all of us, and it's reasonable for anxiety or frustration to arise along the way.

Our classmates and colleagues will make personal decisions about their health, and in most cases, we won't know what their journeys have been. We can support each other through

this by showing respect, offering grace and exhibiting empathy. In other words, I encourage all of us to continue being active members of CIA's community of caring.

Grafton Nunes  
President + CEO