CIA

Memorandum

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

To: **Students, Faculty and Staff**
From: **Grafton J. Nunes, President + CEO**
Date: **December 22, 2021**
Subject: **Booster requirement for CIA community**

Dear students, faculty and staff:

As we've seen throughout the pandemic, change can come quickly and require immediate action. Think back to the very beginning, when the rampant spread of COVID-19 led to overwhelmed hospitals and unexpected closures—including at CIA. Now, with the highly contagious Omicron variant wreaking havoc, we find ourselves approaching a similar situation.

In my memo last week, I wrote that CIA strongly encourages COVID vaccine booster shots. Since that communication, however, health care systems have publicly pleaded for help, small businesses have temporarily closed, theaters have canceled performances and artistic institutions are closing their doors. Further, Cuyahoga County has among the nation's highest rates of COVID cases. Thus, it's clear to me and CIA's COVID Task Force that immediate action is needed again.

So, today, I'm writing to announce that CIA will require students, faculty and staff to receive a COVID vaccine booster for the Spring 2022 semester.

It's crucial we do everything we can to preserve the health of our community and maintain the rigorous in-person education we feel is vital to our students' success. The CIA community has done a truly exceptional job of remaining safe and open so far; this new requirement is an important next step. It's important that we remain proactive in our approach so that we aren't forced to be reactive.

Students and employees are required to document receipt of a booster no later than Friday, January 7, 2022. If you are unable to secure a booster by then, you are expected to arrange to get one no later than Monday, January 10. Boosters can be obtained at most pharmacies and medical centers at no cost.

Students, to confirm your booster status, you're asked to complete this form. It's like the form you completed to confirm your vaccination status in August. Be certain to select the correct status for your booster.

Employees, you're able to confirm your booster status via Paycor. Instructions on how to do so are available under the "Booster Requirement: CIA Community" section at cia.edu/covid.

If the timing of your original vaccination is such that you will not be eligible for a booster before January 7, you are expected to submit confirmation of receiving a booster within three days of becoming eligible. Booster [eligibility](#) begins six months after completing the primary Pfizer/Moderna vaccination series and two months after completing the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccination.

Please note that if you have a CIA-approved exemption for COVID-19 vaccinations, it applies to the booster as well.

In deciding to require COVID vaccine boosters, we're joining Case Western Reserve University, which also requires boosters for spring semester, and answering the call of Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, who last week implored private colleges and universities to do all they can to get their respective communities to receive the booster. The governor worries that the next month or so might be the worst yet for our state due to super-spreader gatherings during the holiday season.

With that in mind, as you spend time with family and friends over the coming weeks, please remain vigilant in terms of wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance. Now is the time to remain focused and not let down our guard. High COVID numbers could force us to go online again.

In addition to protecting for your physical health, I encourage you to devote time and energy to caring for your mental health. It can seem challenging at times, particularly as COVID continues to disrupt, but doing so is important and invaluable.

As always, I want to thank all of you—students, faculty and staff—for all your hard work and care in helping protect our CIA community.

Grafton Nunes
President + CEO