



DARE TO DO MORE

Dear LaGuardia faculty and staff,

Last week's storm and flooding hit Queens with a vengeance. No matter where you live, I hope you and your families did not suffer too much damage. At LaGuardia we had flooding of low areas in some of our buildings, electrical problems from a damaged Con Ed transformer, and other mostly minor damage. Thankfully, none of it was too serious. In this week's "Above and Beyond Recognition" below I give thanks to our LaGuardia heroes, some of whom worked over the holiday weekend to make sure the college would be open for business on Tuesday morning.

There are several updates for this week as we prepare for Fall 2021 classes; please have a look.

Updated Student Vaccination Policy: On Friday, CUNY [amended the student vaccination policy](#) to now require all students accessing college facilities—not just those taking in-person or hybrid classes—to be fully vaccinated. (Previously, unvaccinated students could access facilities such as the library, for example, by providing a negative COVID-19 test.) This change (which I had been lobbying for) takes effect on October 7, 2021. Until then students who are waiting for their vaccination documentation to be approved have to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within the past seven days at a [CUNY testing site](#).

CUNY indicated that an exception to this policy change can be made for students accessing emergency services on campus, such as food pantries and mental health services. Plans are underway to address those situations.

Reporting Positive Cases: For anyone needing to report a positive COVID-19 test, here are the steps to follow:

- Immediately report a confirmed COVID-19 test result to the Coronavirus Campus Liaison, Theresia Litvay-Sardou, by [email](#) or phone (718-482-6123).
- In addition,
 - Employees - please notify your supervisor immediately
 - Students – please notify the Health Center immediately
- Please refrain from contacting others (co-workers, colleagues, students etc.). All notifications for those who may meet the definition of a "Close Contact" (someone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness began until the time the person was isolated) will be performed by the College's Contact Tracing team, as required by the NYS Department of Health. Thanks for understanding and supporting this process.
- Regardless of whether the individual is symptomatic or asymptomatic, they must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the positive test date.
- A proof of negative PCR test performed no earlier than three days prior to the anticipated return to campus date is required for the campus access. Please do not use CUNY test sites for this purpose.

Student Vaccine Verification: Students need to complete their vaccine verification to come on campus. Students have received multiple [notifications](#) about vaccine verification and mask requirements from both CUNY and LaGuardia. The Bursar Lab in C-111 is now available to assist vaccinated students in person with completing their verification on CUNYfirst. Additionally, LaGuardia's Center for Teaching and Learning created a [video tutorial](#) to assist students.



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Get Vaccinated: In addition to the many vaccination sites throughout NYC and beyond, a pop up location will be available across Van Dam St. at Middle College High School (next to the Van Dam Diner). September 13, 14, 15 and 17, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. members of our community seeking to be vaccinated can receive their first Pfizer shot – no appointment is needed.

Above and Beyond Recognition: We all know too well of the extensive flooding caused by Hurricane Ida throughout the metropolitan area last week. LaGuardia suffered considerable water damage. The list of those who had the demanding tasks of pumping out several feet of water, clearing dozens of rooms of soaked debris, repairing pipe, electrical equipment, and cleaning, is too long to mention here. Vulnerable mechanical and electrical systems were monitored and managed in real time, in collaboration with the IT Division, to sustain campus operations. Special recognition goes to the following colleagues and their teams: Yvonne Gaul – Public Safety, Jin Lee – Building Operations, Evelyn Lowmark - Administrative Services, Peter Jayasekara – Environmental Health and Safety, Bobby Lowmark – Maintenance Services. Without their experience, swift response, and sound professional judgment, the damage from Ida would have been much worse for our college. Thank you all!

Best wishes,
Kenneth Adams
President