



To: All NJIT Students
From: Fadi P. Deek, Provost and Senior Executive Vice President
Date: August 9, 2021

As the start of the Fall 2021 semester and a new academic year is fast approaching, I would like to welcome all students, new, continuing, domestic, and international to NJIT. I would like you to know that faculty and staff are eager to see you on campus as the post-pandemic era has finally come. However, this new era requires that we all take the required steps to ensure a safe environment for the entire NJIT community. For example, we will be wearing masks in class and in all indoor locations. This policy will be in effect until CDC and state recommendations change. The policy will also be assessed by the NJIT Pandemic Recovery Steering Committee, which has been meeting weekly since March 2020 and will continue to monitor the situation in the fall.

I am glad to report that all faculty and staff members have been vaccinated with a small number of approved exemptions.

I hope you have also already complied with either uploading your vaccination record to [NJIT.Medicatconnect.com](https://njit.medicatconnect.com) or you have asked for either a medical or a religious exemption. You may submit for a religious exemption through this link [religious exemption form](#). For medical exemptions, you must upload a letter from your physician stating the contraindication to receiving COVID-19 vaccination. The letter must be dated, signed and on official letterhead or have the physician's official stamp. If you have not already done it, I would like to remind you that the deadline to do so is August 18, 2021 (or August 13, 2021 for students who will be living in the dorms).

To be fully transparent, I would like to communicate to you the steps we will be taking for students who by the deadline will have not complied with the above requirements. The below guidelines only apply to students who are not registered in fully online degree and certificate programs.

On August 19, those who will have neither submitted their vaccination record nor applied for an exemption will not be able to use most of the functionalities of the NJIT computer network; they will only be able to use their e-mail (so we can communicate) and either upload vaccination records or apply for an exemption. They will not be able to change their schedule; they will lose their

position if they are on course waiting lists and will have no access to course materials that instructors may have already uploaded. Incoming international students will be categorized as “temporarily exempt” and will not be barred from using our computer network even if they have not fully complied by the August 19 deadline; this is so because some may have to be vaccinated in the US after their arrival.

We understand there will be students who for various reasons may miss the deadline but would like to be given the opportunity to continue their studies. These students (effective August 19) will be allowed to submit records of partial vaccination or even apply for an exemption up to August 31. By submitting partial records, students will be given the status of “temporarily exempt,” and their access to the NJIT system will be restored. They will also be allowed to attend classes when the semester starts, but the temporary exemption will have a deadline by which the students will have to submit the remaining information. If students do not comply, they will receive “W”s (withdrawal) for their classes without any policy, refund or others, being different from what is published in the Fall 2021 academic calendar (<https://www5.njit.edu/registrar/fall-2021-academic-calendar/>).

Any student who has not been (a) certified as compliant with the vaccination policy, or (b) given the status of exempt, or (c) given the status of “temporarily exempt” by midnight August 31, 2021 will be deregistered from classes and will not be able to attend NJIT in Fall 2021.

Please keep in mind that exempt and “temporarily exempt” students will have to be undergoing weekly COVID-19 testing to be able to continue their studies. Clearly, “temporarily exempt” students will be tested for the period they have this status; they will continue undergoing weekly testing if they are categorized as exempt when their information is fully processed.

As usual, financial aid will be disbursed only when the process of verification of presence (VOP) has been completed after classes start. However, for “temporarily exempt” students who do not become either compliant or exempt (and thus, get withdrawn from their courses) their aid will be prorated with part of it returned to the funding agency with a corresponding balance due on their NJIT account for which they will be responsible.

An important consideration: Students who are compliant or exempt can apply for federal government emergency expenses grants given to universities to help students who meet some eligibility requirements and have been affected by the pandemic (loss of a parent’s job, loss of their own job, decline in family income, etc.). Applications of “temporarily exempt” students may be delayed until all data have been received. Non-compliant students may only apply for

assistance for past emergency expenses (including past balances) and not for expenses for the Fall 2021 semester. Applications will open in the next few days.

I look forward to seeing everyone on campus soon. To that end, please be sure to upload your vaccination record (or get an exemption) by the deadline of August 18, 2021. Even if incomplete, a “temporarily exempt” status will keep your access to essential university systems.

I believe the great majority of our students will comply by the August 18 deadline. The measures described above are meant to secure a safe environment for all and a quality educational experience our students deserve.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and know that we are looking forward to welcoming you to a vibrant but safe campus in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Fadi P. Deek
Provost and Senior Executive Vice President