

Dear Yotefam,

Back in February, we announced the plan to start the Fall 2021 Semester in Phase 5 of our [Re-Opening Plan](#), but given the current availability of vaccines for anyone 16 years of age or older, it is now our goal to return to campus in the fall in Phase 6, which is essentially a return to as close to the College experience we are known for and that you deserve. We will retain the beneficial aspects of what we learned during the pandemic, but Phase 6 would allow all of us to resume in-person classes, labs, clubs, activities, dining, athletics, etc., without masks. We would still likely need to adhere to some COVID-related precautions, and there may be some vaccination requirements for certain elective activities.

We all want to return to those experiences we have missed so much, and that are such an integral part of the full educational and residential experience we provide. The way to achieve this is through vaccines and reaching herd immunity, or “pack” immunity as the Yotefam prefers to call it, which we conservatively determine to be around 80% of our campus community fully vaccinated. We have been given the gift of an extremely effective and safe vaccine, with nearly 100% protection from COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths.

As an educational institution, which embraces science, we are encouraging everyone who is able to get vaccinated to do so as soon as possible. In hopes of boosting our vaccination rate and obtaining “pack” immunity, thus allowing us to open in Phase 6 this fall, we will be providing a number of additional incentives to students, faculty, and staff. In the coming days look for information about giveaways, raffles, and drawings, and how to become eligible. You will also see some videos from faculty, staff, and students encouraging you to join them in getting vaccinated.

In the meantime, we encourage you to get a head start by scheduling your Covid-19 vaccination appointment. For those living on or near campus, one convenient location is the Rite Aid at 2107 Blaine St ([link to scheduling](#)), just across from the Human Bean, but you can also schedule vaccinations through Primary Health, Saltzer Health, Terry Reilly, St. Luke’s, and St. Alphonsus.

Let’s do this, and put this virus on our campus in the rearview mirror.

Go Yotes!  
Doug and Jim