Dear Members of the ESF Community:

We understand the frustration that frequent changes may cause. Conditions are changing and more knowledge is gained about the virus, its variants, and transmissibility.

ESF reserves the right to revise its policies, procedures, and protocols as it deems appropriate to promote a healthy and safe campus environment for students, faculty, and staff. ESF must continue to comply with any additional requirements imposed by regulating entities, including New York State, SUNY, and local health departments.

Updated information will be relayed periodically to the ESF campus community using a variety of means, including by email to the address on file and on the ESF COVID Restart page.

**Vaccine and Booster Policy**

Vaccination is the best protection against the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. A widely vaccinated campus community safeguards the health, wellness, and safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

**Students:** SUNY continues to require all students to provide evidence of vaccination as a condition of enrollment and participation in in-person activities.

Pursuant to the SUNY COVID-19 Vaccination policy, students are considered fully vaccinated for the initial course of vaccination: (1) two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two dose COVID-19 vaccine series or (2) two weeks after receiving a single dose COVID-19 vaccine.

For the Spring 2022 semester, New York State requires all students engaging in in-person activities sponsored by ESF to get a booster shot when eligible.

People who received their COVID-19 vaccine can typically get their booster six months after their second dose or two months after the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Consultation with a medical professional may be appropriate to determine eligibility based on specific factors within an individual’s medical history. A temporary medical accommodation may be requested by contacting the Division of Student Affairs.

"In-person Activities” include classes, labs, extracurricular activities, and sports.

SU requires all eligible individuals to receive a booster shot by Jan. 24, and this is in addition to the initial course of vaccination for COVID-19 and a flu shot. For individuals who are not yet eligible to receive a booster by Jan. 24, you will be required to receive a booster shot within 30 days of becoming eligible.
Each student must provide proof of such vaccinations (primary series and booster dose) to the Division of Student Affairs.

**Faculty and Staff:** All faculty and staff are encouraged to get vaccinated and receive a booster when eligible. (Management Confidential employees are required to be vaccinated and boosted.) Proof of such vaccination and booster shots may be provided to ESF Human Resources.

SU requires all eligible individuals to receive a booster shot by Jan. 24, and this is in addition to the initial course of vaccination for COVID-19 and a flu shot. For individuals who are not yet eligible to receive a booster by Jan. 24, you will be required to receive a booster shot **within 30 days of becoming eligible.**

**Testing**

**Return-to-Campus**

All students must participate in testing upon return for the spring semester (regardless of vaccination status). Tests must be performed and a negative result produced within 72 hours of arrival on campus.

Testing is available at SU for all asymptomatic members of the ESF community. Visit the SU website for the most current information. SU is providing the required return-to-campus testing for ESF. Home tests will not be accepted.

For the safety of others, do not go to the SU testing center if you have symptoms. Students who believe they may have been exposed or who are experiencing COVID-like symptoms should stay home, report their symptoms and exposure, and call Crouse Medical Practice at 315-766-1628 for medical evaluation/diagnostic COVID testing.

Faculty and staff experiencing COVID-like symptoms should stay home and call their primary care provider.

**Surveillance Testing**

SU is providing the required surveillance testing for ESF. Home tests will not be accepted.

- **Fully Vaccinated Campus Community Members**
  Faculty, staff, and students who are fully vaccinated and have received a booster shot may opt-out from weekly testing requirements, but may still be periodically required to participate in surveillance testing.

- **Unvaccinated Faculty and Staff**
  Weekly testing is required for faculty and staff who are unvaccinated or who have not shown proof of vaccination. Failure to comply with this requirement will be addressed by Human Resources.

- **Unvaccinated Students**
  If a student has received an accommodation from the vaccination policy, weekly testing is required (every seven days) at Syracuse University. Individual compliance with this requirement
will be closely monitored. Failure to comply with this requirement will be treated as a violation of the ESF Code of Student Conduct and handled as outlined in the ESF Student Handbook.

Prevention Protocols
ESF supports the continued use of prevention protocols, including:

- Vaccination
- Mask wearing
- Social distancing and crowd avoidance
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer
- Covering mouths and noses when sneezing or coughing (followed by hand washing or use of sanitizer, as practical)
- Self-monitoring of health symptoms and changes

For meetings and in-person events, the College community is asked to evaluate this on a case-by-case basis. If in-person gatherings or meetings are not necessary, use a remote option. If you proceed with gathering, be aware of the risks and ensure you’re following the ESF masking guidelines. We also encourage you to maintain social distancing to further reduce risk.

ESF has adopted the Campus Mask Status implemented by Syracuse University. This framework uses four levels to alert the community about masking requirements for using the campus facilities and applies to all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors on the ESF campus at Syracuse. ESF reserves the right to set its levels different from those on the Syracuse University campus based on conditions on the ESF campus.

As of 1/10/2022, following the New York State requirements and guidance, everyone who works in or enters into any State leased or owned space (including the ESF campus) must wear masks at all times, regardless of vaccination status, except when alone in an enclosed room (such as an individual office or residence room) or actively eating or drinking. In the event that this changes, notification will be sent to the campus community.

People are encouraged to monitor their health conditions and to take appropriate action if feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19, including getting tested, wearing masks, and remaining distanced from other people.

Classes
ESF intends to provide its instructional activities (e.g., classes and labs) in-person. However, in the event that it becomes necessary to pivot and provide those activities in a remote format, information will be provided by the instructor. Instructional activities are deemed to be a necessary activity.

Quarantine & Isolation
ESF will follow the quarantine and isolation requirements established by the New York State Department of Health, as they may be updated from time to time. Individuals must follow the orders and directions of local public health officials. ESF will attempt to keep general information available on its website.
Where to Obtain the COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccines and boosters are available at no-cost. Vaccinations are available widely at pharmacies. You can make an appointment for a vaccine at:

- **New York State Department of Health** – appointments at state-run sites and private-sites
- **Vaccines.gov** – shows sites within 25 miles of ESF (zip code 13210)
- **New York State Fair** – Art & Home Center
- **Walgreens** – with locations near the ESF campus
- **Kinney Drugs** – with locations near the ESF campus
- **Wegmans** – with locations near the ESF campus

Health Benefits and Risks of COVID-19 Vaccinations

People who become infected with the COVID-19 virus and its variants may become severely ill and experience debilitating long-term effects. Death is a potential outcome.

Each individual’s health status is unique. This is not medical advice. To receive specific advice for you based on your own health history and risk factors, please consult with a medical professional.

Generally, studies indicate that vaccinated individuals are shown to be less likely to die or to otherwise become severely ill from contracting the virus. Not only does this protect the vaccinated individual, but it also reduces the impact on the healthcare system and frees resources for other patient needs.

Vaccinated individuals are less likely to transmit the virus to other individuals. This reduces the threat to the safety and well-being of those within the campus community who may be at risk for becoming infected with the virus.

You may experience side-effects from the vaccination, including on the arm where you received the injection and in the rest of your body, including fever, chills, and soreness. It should be noted that there have been reports of rare cases of myocarditis and pericarditis in adolescents and young adults, but the CDC continues to recommend vaccination because of the benefits.

Beyond Health - Consequences for Failure to Obtain a Vaccine

The vaccination mandate is a strict policy with serious repercussions that was put in place to protect the health and safety of our campus. Students who do not comply (or who have not provided proof of vaccination) shall be administratively withdrawn from their in-person courses and their registration will be deactivated, preventing them from participating in classes, labs, and ESF activities. Withdrawal and refunds will be consistent with SUNY and ESF policies, procedures, and schedules.

Faculty are not required to record lectures or to provide real-time participation methods to lectures or labs for students who are excluded from participating because of vaccination status. ESF offers a hands-on learning approach, with many courses involving field work and lab experience, that are not practically held online.

ESF is attempting to continue in-person activities on campus and to promote a safe and healthy campus community. Our campus also relies on a close collaboration with Syracuse University, making use of its
facilities and classrooms to supplement the educational experience on the ESF campus, and this is why ESF aligns itself closely with its requirements and expectations.

**Further Information**
Answers to frequently asked questions are available on the [ESF COVID Restart page](https://www.esf.edu/restart/).

This guidance is effective as of 1/10/2022 and is subject to revision at any time. More specific guidance may be provided by departments or offices within ESF.

**Additional Resources**

- **ESF – COVID-19 Updates**: [https://www.esf.edu/restart/](https://www.esf.edu/restart/)
- **SUNY – COVID-19 Guidance for Spring 2022**: [https://www.suny.edu/campus-reopening/](https://www.suny.edu/campus-reopening/)
- **Onondaga County**: [https://covid19.ongov.net/](https://covid19.ongov.net/)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**: [https://www.cdc.gov/](https://www.cdc.gov/)
- **Syracuse University – COVID Alert Framework**: [https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/covid-alert-framework/](https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/covid-alert-framework/)
- **Syracuse University – Stay Safe – Frequently Asked Questions**: [https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/frequently-asked-questions/#:~:text=#%3As%3A%3Facilities%3A%2C%20considerations](https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/frequently-asked-questions/#:~:text=#%3As%3A%3Facilities%3A%2C%20considerations)
- **Syracuse University – Immunizations**: [https://ese.syr.edu/bewell/immunizations/](https://ese.syr.edu/bewell/immunizations/)
- **FDA – approval (8/23/2021)**: [https://www.fda.gov/media/151710/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/151710/download)