Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Consistent with the federal government’s end of the COVID-19 public health emergency and related vaccination recommendations, the University of Vermont is ending the emergency vaccination mandate for students, faculty, and staff.

The change, effective immediately, will allow students to enroll in classes regardless of their vaccination status. In addition, job applicants will no longer be required to submit proof of vaccination as a condition of hire.

While the withdrawal of public health emergency status limits UVM’s ability to enforce a COVID-19 mandate, the university recognizes that COVID-19 is still present in our community and poses a risk to some. The most important parts of UVM’s successful response to the pandemic remain sound medical and public health practice. It is still important to test if you have been exposed or have symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home when you are sick. UVM also strongly recommends students and employees stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. Staying up to date with the COVID-19 vaccine is a sound way to build protection from serious illness—even for those who have already had COVID-19.

As was the case throughout the pandemic, students and employees are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidance, state health department guidance, and their healthcare provider’s advice for prevention and treatment of the virus. Please review our updated COVID-19 policies.

Below are the university’s continuing expectations for the UVM community:

1. All UVM students, employees, and visitors should follow CDC guidance on vaccines and stay up to date on their vaccinations. This also means staying informed about any variants of concern or new vaccines developed to prevent severe infection from those variants.
2. Individuals with COVID-19 should follow CDC guidance around treatment and isolation.
3. Unless required by federal or state regulations (such as in medical settings), all of our campus locations are mask-friendly and mask-optional. Decisions around masking should be based on CDC guidance on the use of masks for COVID-19 and other illnesses, such as influenza.
4. Testing is a helpful tool for preventing the spread of illness. Individuals should consider bringing antigen test kits with them to campus to have
on hand in case they are needed. Test kits remain available as long as supplies last at the Davis Center information desks. Otherwise, testing for COVID-19 and other illnesses is available for students at Student Health Services. Employees should consult with their health care provider or their local pharmacy to obtain reliable tests.

5. COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended and vaccination and booster documentation demonstrating that you are up to date as defined by the CDC could become required again in the unlikely event that conditions similar to the initial COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 occur.

6. UVM health officials will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, coordinate with State health officials, and provide updates as necessary.

7. If any employee wishes to discuss a workplace accommodation, they may contact UVM's ADA coordinator, Amber Fulcher, at accessibility@uvm.edu or at 802/656-0945. Employees may also wish to review UVM's telework policy and operating procedures (pdf). Employees may also request a flexible work arrangement from their supervisor. Information regarding flexible work arrangements may be reviewed here.

As a community, we have responded together with all Vermonters for the safety, health, and care of our neighbors, colleagues, and peers. The past three years have been challenging and we acknowledge the impact COVID-19 continues to have on many. We owe tremendous gratitude to our medical professionals who shepherded us through this period, and to each other for continuing to care for, consider, and protect one another. We are always stronger together.

Sincerely,

Michael Schirling
Chief Safety and Compliance Officer

Erica Caloiero
Vice Provost for Student Affairs