

Dear Students,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer and looking forward, as I am, to the new academic year. With the emergence of the delta variant, you may have questions about our return to campus that President Fitts has been promoting throughout the summer. Tulane University and the Law School are, of course, closely monitoring the current COVID conditions. As reported daily on [Tulane's COVID-19 Dashboard](#), Tulane has had a very low positivity rate throughout the summer. Even since the full return to in person work for all staff on July 6, we continue to have a very low positivity rate, despite the rise in cases elsewhere, largely attributable to the very high vaccination rate among Tulane affiliates. Currently, more than 90% of Tulane faculty and staff and more than 95% of students report being fully vaccinated, and those numbers continue to rise as the University documents more vaccinations.

While the Tulane numbers remain very promising, [Tulane Campus Health](#) continues to remind us that we must remain vigilant and that vaccinations are the best line of defense against COVID-19 and the developing variants. As [announced on May 13, 2021](#), **all students are required to be vaccinated**. If you have not already submitted your documentation to satisfy this requirement, please do so immediately. Vaccination of everyone is crucial as we will be having a fully in-person Fall 2021 semester, with all classes taking place in Weinmann Hall.

We know that many of you have been looking forward to the return of a fully in-person law school experience, while some of you may be nervous about the return. I want to assure you that Tulane is carefully following federal, state, and local health guidelines. In that vein, individuals who are unable to be vaccinated must continue to be masked at all times while on Tulane's campus, and earlier this week the University temporarily reverted to requiring that all individuals (vaccinated or unvaccinated) wear masks on campus whenever social distancing is not possible, as recently encouraged by the City of New Orleans. This is meant to be a temporary measure to suppress the current spike in delta cases. In all events, Tulane is fully committed to providing students with a safe and fully in-person learning environment in the new academic year. We were successful in maintaining on-campus learning last year, containing the virus even without vaccines through Tulane's robust program of safety measures, surveillance testing, and contact tracing; in the year ahead, with nearly universal vaccinations on campus, we will be in a vastly stronger position still.

We will continue to update you with any further announcements as the start of the fall semester draws closer. We hope you are all having a great summer and we look forward to welcoming you back to New Orleans next month!

Best,

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