Dear Colleagues,

Many faculty members have inquired about the health and safety measures that are in place since students, faculty, and staff are fully back on campus. The following are useful notes based on the "safe return to campus in fall 2021" plan and the recommendations of the Expert Committee on COVID-19.

Please feel free to customize this information as part of the internal communication with students, faculty, and staff in your faculties/schools.

A. Guidelines for a safe return to campus in the fall term

1. The target has been set to over 95% of the community vaccinated before October 1. As of October 12, over 97% of the community has been vaccinated.

2. Students, faculty, and staff have been sending their vaccination certificates to the Vaccination Working Group (vaxwg@aub.edu.lb).

3. Those who have medical conditions that prevent them from getting the vaccines will have to submit a request for a medical exemption to the Vaccination Working Group (vaxwg@aub.edu.lb), which will be reviewed by physicians from the University Health Services for approval.

4. Students who refuse to be vaccinated will be denied access to campus, which will have implications on their ability to continue with their studies at AUB. For more details, check the students' FAQs at: https://aub.edu.lb/Pages/faq-students-fall-2021.aspx

5. Faculty and staff who refuse to be vaccinated will be denied access to campus, which will have implications on their ability to maintain their employment at AUB.

6. The mask mandate will remain in effect in classrooms at all times to keep everyone safe.

7. There will be no capacity or distancing restrictions in classrooms. Faculties/schools should try to optimize the allocation of students to classrooms to reduce the load density per room, as feasible.

8. The mask mandate will remain in effect in shared indoor spaces and in crowded outdoor spaces.

9. Students, faculty, and staff should stay at home if they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to the University Health Services for testing and care *(see also protocol below).*

10. Essential visitors should follow the COVID-19 Expert Committee safety guidelines on campus. There will be a follow up in the near future regarding the requirement that all essential visitors should be vaccinated to be able to access campus.

11. Non-essential visitors on campus, volunteers, and activities from external organizations will continue to be prohibited.

12. Food services on campus: physical distancing in food lines need to be maintained indoors. Fully vaccinated students, staff, and faculty can remove masks while eating; tables should be positioned to respect 6 feet distance separation.

13. Faculty and staff should check the following page for up-to-date information from the Expert Committee: https://www.aub.edu.lb/emergency/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx.

B. Protocol when there is a positive COVID-19 case in a classroom/lab

1. If you've had close contact (definition below[1]) with someone who has COVID-19:

   a. You should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms.

   b. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative.

   c. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive.

   d. If unvaccinated you need to quarantine for 14 days. If symptoms develop, get tested right away.

2. There was a successful experience in the past regarding identified positive cases: A designated person in each department was responsible to do the investigation and identify the close contacts (those who were within 6 feet of the case for more than 15 minutes).

3. The close contacts are communicated to the employee health team who can order tests for them (paid for by the individuals themselves). These individuals should be tested 3-5 days post-exposure.

[1] **Close Contact:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.