



MEMORANDUM

June 23, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Jim Malatras, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine for Students

Action Requested

This resolution adopts the State of New York directive that public colleges and universities mandate that all students who intend to engage in-person at a SUNY campus or facility must receive a COVID-19 vaccination, pending final approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA").

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Board has the authority under Sec. 355 of the NYS Education Law to oversee the operation and administration of State-operated campuses and the community colleges operating under the program of the State University of New York, which authority allows it to address the COVID-19 health crisis at such SUNY campuses; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees shall designate to the Chancellor the authority to develop a policy to implement the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for the State University of New York pursuant to the State of New York directive.

Background

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SUNY has leveraged the latest science and data in developing cutting-edge policies to protect the health of the SUNY campus communities. SUNY's pooled surveillance testing requirements, including the 100 percent weekly testing regimen instituted in the Spring 2021 semester, helped to monitor and suppress infection outbreaks during modified COVID-19 operations. Campuses have also maintained robust masking, social distancing, and sanitation requirements to further enhance campus safety.

In addition, SUNY campuses have been leaders in New York State's COVID-19 vaccination efforts thus far across the broader State population.

In preparation for the Fall 2021 semester, SUNY's goal is to restore pre-COVID-19 campus activity across the System to the greatest extent possible. With that in mind, it is critical that SUNY continues to implement a strong and multi-faceted COVID-19 safety and response plan. The COVID-19 student vaccination requirement mandated by the State of New York for all public universities and implemented by this resolution and policy will help to allow students who receive the vaccine to more safely recapture the full in-person SUNY experience.

The Chancellor will keep the Board of Trustees fully informed as to the progress and substance of the policy as it is developed and implemented.

