



June 2, 2021

Dear Members of the King's College Community,

The question of whether the College will require COVID-19 vaccination for all members of the King's College campus community is on the minds of many. Let me state at the beginning, every member of our community must be vaccinated and present proof of vaccination **OR** submit an informed consent waiver prior to the Fall 2021 semester. I strongly urge you to be vaccinated for it is the most effective means to mitigate viral spread.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that health is a common good. An individual's health is closely connected with the health of others. The highly infectious nature of the novel coronavirus, and its emerging variants, make clear that we hold one another's health and well-being in our hands.

To care for the common good of our community's health during the fall semester, all employees and students who have not submitted proof of vaccination to the college by August 1, 2021 will be required to:

- submit a completed informed consent waiver (which will be distributed at a later date);
- participate in pre-semester COVID-19 testing before the fall semester;
- participate in regular COVID-19 surveillance testing throughout the fall semester; and
- quarantine or isolate due to contact with a COVID positive person.

Depending on NCAA and MAC guidelines, participation in team practices and competition may be limited to vaccinated athletes only.

As I have reflected upon this question, I found myself drawn to this sentence from our Mission Statement:

"Inspired by the teaching and example of its namesake, Christ the King, who taught by example and ruled by love, King's forms graduates who will champion the inherent dignity of every person and will mobilize their talents and professional skills to serve the common good."

As Pope Francis has noted, to be vaccinated is a choice to protect not only one's own health, but also the health of others, especially the vulnerable. Vaccination is the best means to mitigate viral spread, and, thus, to care for our common good.

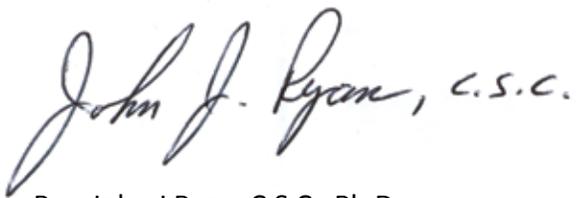
As a community dedicated to fostering the common good and to respecting the dignity of every person, we strongly urge every member of our campus community (except for those whose underlying medical conditions or whose religious tenets forbid vaccination) to be fully vaccinated **AND**

to submit verification of your vaccination to Human Resources (for employees) or the Student Health Center (for students).

Our campus safety operations and COVID-19 protocols for the fall semester are dependent upon the vaccination rate of our campus community. If you are fully vaccinated you can engage in co-curricular activities, athletic practices and competition, and in-person courses without interruption. If our vaccination rate reaches certain thresholds, we may be able to loosen certain restrictions, such as becoming facemask optional in indoor venues. We will, of course, take into consideration CDC and PA DOH Guidelines, but we reserve the right to modify College policy and practice due to our community's vaccination rate.

I continue to be deeply grateful for the resilience, compassion, and dedication of the King's College community during this challenging year. As the availability of the vaccine and the decline in COVID-19 cases in the United States bring us a sense of hope and encouragement, please continue to take care of yourselves and each other. You and your loved ones remain in my prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Ryan, C.S.C." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Rev. John J Ryan, C.S.C., Ph.D.