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**GEORGE T. FRENCH, JR., PH.D.**

**PRESIDENT**

May 4, 2021

Dear Panther Scholars,

On [March 30, 2021](#), I was pleased to announce the University's plans for a full return to campus of all students, faculty, and staff for the Fall 2021 semester. On [April 19, 2021](#), I sent another letter announcing that the University, in collaboration with Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Spelman College, and the AUCC Robert W. Woodruff Library, will require all students and members of their faculties and staffs to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations before returning to in-person classes and operations for the Fall 2021 semester.

I am writing today to provide more information on the vaccination requirements and processes CAU will follow. To keep our campus community safe, I desire that all students, faculty, and staff be vaccinated against COVID-19. However, recognizing this may not be possible for everyone, the University will allow two exemptions from the vaccination requirement based on medical and religious reasons. Medical and religious exemptions will be accommodated, but the expectation will be that our campuses, classrooms, and residence halls will overwhelmingly consist of vaccinated individuals, significantly reducing the risk of infection for all.

If you have not yet received your vaccination, please note that we are an approved Point of Dispensing (POD) location by the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and can administer vaccinations to CAU students, faculty, and staff. If you are interested in receiving the vaccine on-campus, please schedule an appointment via the [My Panther Health Portal](#).

We envision an academic year that looks much like our pre-pandemic operations, including:

- A two-semester, total 36 weeks, academic year calendar;
- Standard course enrollments and class sizes;
- Standard room occupancy for on-campus residence halls;
- Standard lab and research operations; and,
- Resumption of fall and spring sports

## Proof of Vaccination/Request for Exemption Allowance

We will require that students provide proof of vaccination or submit a request for exemption if you meet the eligibility criteria. Please use the [My Panther Health Portal](#) and upload a copy of your vaccination card that you received from either our on-site clinic located in the Henderson Student Center Multipurpose Room or from the outside provider from whom you received the vaccine.

If you require an exemption from taking the vaccine for *medical or religious reasons*, please access and complete the relevant exemption forms ([medical exemption form](#) and [religious exemption form](#)). Electronic copies of the completed form and supporting documentation should be uploaded to the [My Panther Health Portal](#) for review.

## Timeline for Completing Vaccination

In order to satisfy a critical milestone of having a fully vaccinated campus (except for those who have approved exemptions), all students must upload their vaccine documentation by no later than **July 1, 2021**.

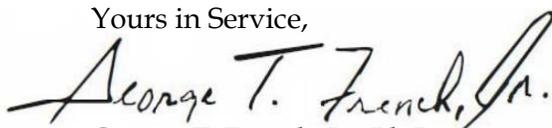
## Conclusion

Even as we plan for a more traditional campus experience, flexibility remains essential. Our plans will continue to be shaped by public health guidance and the prevailing science about the effectiveness of vaccinations. Because of ongoing uncertainty about the trajectory of the coronavirus, there are some decisions we will have to defer until later in the summer. We do not know yet, for example, whether and under what circumstances mask-wearing might be required on campus in the fall or the method and frequency of asymptomatic testing for COVID-19.

Our top priority is safeguarding the health and well-being of the CAU community while continuing to deliver an exceptional educational experience, and supporting research and scholarship. We plan to have regular communication with the CAU community over the next few months regarding our plans for the Fall 2021 semester. Such communication will include town hall meetings and posting of “Frequently Asked Questions” on the University’s website.

Thank you for all you continue to do so that we may all be together again as a community in the new academic year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact staff in the Office of Student Services and Campus Life at (404) 880-8040 from Monday – Friday, during the hours of 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST, or via e-mail at [studentaffairs@cau.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@cau.edu).

Yours in Service,



George T. French, Jr., Ph.D.  
President