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**Subject:** Looking Ahead to Fall

**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 10:02:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** President Lugo

Dear Queens Community,

We are halfway through the spring semester, and I am so proud of our community. We have kept our COVID-19 numbers to a minimum as you can see on our [dashboard](#). We have had an admirable level of compliance with our community covenant which has certainly helped keep us healthy and safe. I'm equally impressed by your creativity to find safe ways to interact and make the most of your college experience. Virtual Schmoozpalooza, virtual campus dialogues offered by the DICE office, and watching you find ways to gather and interact safely outdoors demonstrates the resilience and passion of our strong community.

While seeing the finish line brings us all hope, I ask that you please stand with me in upholding our [community covenant](#) through the end of the semester. We are not there yet. We must remain vigilant – wearing our masks, completing survey testing when asked, filling out the [daily symptom checker](#), and avoiding large groups.

On March 4, our employees (including student workers) who are coming to campus to work became eligible for the vaccine, and we know many have received or are scheduled to receive their vaccination. We have taken many steps to help this group find vaccine appointments, and we have just learned that Novant Health will provide an on-site clinic as early as next week. Stay tuned for an email from the COVID-19 Response Team with details.

As of Governor Cooper's announcement just days ago, residential students will all be eligible for the vaccine starting April 7. Sometime after that, non-residential students will be eligible. We will keep you updated as we learn more. I am hopeful that many of you will get your doses and increase the safety of our community. I attended a mass vaccination clinic last Saturday and received my first dose. As a result, I am happy to lead by example.

We have updated the [Royal Return website](#) with tips on where to get your vaccine. You will be able to sign up closer to the time when you are eligible.

We are looking forward to coming back to the full on-campus experience in the fall. Our departments are planning for in-person classes, on-campus living, and student activities. Students, that means take that housing application seriously – you will be assigned housing for next fall. Of course, the senior leadership and COVID-19 response teams will continue to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary. But I want you to know, you have my full commitment and the senior leadership team's assurance that we are planning to bring back as much of our in-person experience as possible.

Sincerely,  
President Lugo