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**Subject:** COVID-19 Update: Move to Level 2, Vaccines and End-of-Semester Testing

**Date:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 1:59:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** President Lugo

Dear Queens Community,

As a result of recent viral activity on our campus, we are immediately moving to **Level 2 alert**, which indicates a moderate number of cases with known transmission. Please read this email thoroughly to see the important exception to this alert level, along with critical information about the vaccine and other prevention measures.

As a result of our collective efforts to keep each other safe and keep campus open, we have managed to keep the presence of COVID-19 on our campus to a minimum since our return to campus after winter break. However, in the past two weeks we have seen [22 new COVID-19 cases, with currently 17 students in quarantine or isolation](#). These are levels we haven't seen in the past 45 days. **We must reverse this trend.**

We are moving to a Level 2 alert which calls for classes as scheduled (hybrid or virtual), no in-person dining, and no guests in the residence halls. We are making one significant exception by allowing **previously approved student activities, including senior week, to go on as scheduled**. We do not know of any transmission that has occurred in the classroom or during structured activities.

While we are allowing these events to proceed, you must know that if the trend continues, we will be forced to cancel all in-person activities. We need your help to preserve the last few weeks of our semester. Please, adhere to the measures you committed to when you signed the community covenant - wear your mask, stay physically distant, practice good hygiene and please, avoid large gatherings. The known COVID-19 cases among our students have all come from unsanctioned group gatherings on and off campus, in some cases resulting in disciplinary probation, removal from campus housing or suspension.

### **Get Your Vaccine**

Another step you can take to protect yourself and others is to get your vaccine. Please make plans to get your shot. We have [vaccine resources linked on our Royal Return website](#). We expect the vaccine will be required at most college campuses, including Queens, prior to the fall semester. So, take care of yours now. We will send more information about a vaccine requirement as we work through the details.

### **Exit Testing Option**

Finally, we will be offering end-of-semester testing before you leave campus. Click this link to register for [exit testing](#). This will help assure undetected cases are not spread to your families and communities after you leave Queens. This is a voluntary service offered through athletics and the health and wellness center. Look for details to come if you are interested.

Friends, we have just two weeks left of classes, followed by reading day, exams, then two commencements (the class of 2020 and the class of 2021). We need everyone's collective effort to end the semester on a high note, rather than in quarantine. We have all made sacrifices thus far for the good of our community. Let's not blow it now! As we have proven throughout the pandemic, we can do this together. Thank you all for your collective effort. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

President Lugo