

**From:** [Otis College President](#)  
**Subject:** Important COVID-19 Related Updates from Otis College  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 12:46:44 PM

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Dear Otis Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Yesterday California passed a major milestone in its fight against COVID-19. The Governor shared that 40 million vaccine doses have been given in California and the [state is fully reopening](#) without social distancing, capacity limits, and, if you're vaccinated, fewer mask requirements. While we wait for further guidance from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), better known as Cal/OSHA, which sets the guidelines for Otis College as a workplace, we can take a moment to celebrate this milestone.

We want to thank all of you in our community who helped to coordinate the Otis College response over these 15 months and especially the [COVID-19 Response Team](#), who have been meeting weekly since the beginning of the pandemic.

Additional community messages will be shared in the coming days concerning the Fall semester. As we prepare for a full reopening of our campus in August, we want to share some important updates with you:

1. **In order to create a safe and healthy campus community to the best of our ability, we are now requiring that all faculty, staff, and students be vaccinated.** Specific details will be provided soon. You will find them similar to most of our higher education counterparts throughout Los Angeles. If you are not vaccinated, please get vaccinated as soon as possible. Free vaccines are available throughout Los Angeles and on our campus.
2. While we continue to innovate our curriculum, **the majority of Fall classes will be on campus and students are expected to return in person**, with exemptions for those who cannot get visas due to closed embassies, or those with documented disabilities that will impede their ability to return to campus. The final course modality for each course will be announced on July 30 on [Otis Forward](#) website.
3. We are working to make the campus ready for our full return without social distancing or capacity limits, and without masks for vaccinated individuals. **In the meantime, as we wait for more guidance from Cal/OSHA, we will expect those currently on campus to continue to wear masks.**
4. Every division is currently creating plans for when and how **staff and faculty will return to campus**. Please talk to your Division Leader to find out more about the plans in your division.

In addition to the COVID-19 Response Team, we want to thank all of you who worked on campus over the past 15 months to keep Otis running smoothly during an unprecedented

time. It is easy to forget the uncertainty and fear that many of you overcame during those months:

**COVID-19 Response Team:** Ankush Mahindra, Claude Nica, Helene Wilbourne, Ivette Aguilar, Jeffrey Perkins, Joanne Mitchell, Dr. Julie Spencer, Karen Hill, Laura Kiralla, Leo Pena, Mohammed Ahmed, Steve McQueen

**Campus Safety:** Bana Tesfamicael, Gerald Davis, David Vonboehn, Devin Ortiz, Gene Palmer, James Valencia, Kashefah Gonzalez, Steve McQueen

**Facilities Management:** Elvis Ortiz, Claude Nica, Jose Marquez, Twin Daniel, Wilfredo Barleta

**Finance:** Eloa Leme, Janyee Gutierrez, Liza Mullins, Shamara Pratt

**Institutional Advancement:** Carrie Banasky

**IT:** Alec Sher, Antonio Martinez, Edwin Salazar, Hal Tekle, Patricia Li

**Purchasing:** Richard Kingham, Zane Tarver

**TSS:** Adam Papparotto, Aida Klein, Andrew Armstrong, Enrique Cabral, Glen Araya, Jamie Russom, Janet Kupchick, Jennifer Graves, Joshue Molina, Keegan Holden, Kevin Buzzel, Leslie Ross-Robertson, Maggie Lomeli, Mark Thomas, Mike Pierzynski, Nadia Afghani, Natalie Center, Nevada Hardman, Nikk Mohammed, Rachel Curry, Robert Apodaca, Seth Lower, Stephanie Kroop

**Residence Life and Housing:** Francarlo Resto, Melinda Patton, Morgan Brown

**Student Health and Wellness Center:** Dr. Julie Spencer, Trisha Chang

**Student workers:** Reanna Isabelle Brown, Ashley Khalil, Alyssa Marie Rodriguez, Antonio Saez-Benito Yvanez, Gurkan Cemil Yigit, Isabel Sohyun Park, Issa Gonzalez, Kelsey Lei, Richard Eduardo Panduro, Sophia Yunxian Li

Thank you again for all of your hard work during this period. We look forward to seeing you on campus in August!

Best regards,

Charles Hirschhorn  
President

Jiseon Lee Isbara  
Provost