



**Office of the President**

25 August 2021

Good afternoon NMI community,

I wanted to take a few minutes to connect with each of you to remind students, faculty, staff and administration that the COVID-19 crisis is still with us as the presence of the variant increases throughout the U.S.

In order to ensure the safety of all members of the NMI community, we have implemented a policy that requires all full-time students, faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated for the Fall 2021 semester and beyond so that we can continue with on-campus and in-person instruction. This important step is crucial in contributing to the safety of everyone on campus and we hope it will allow us to return to a more “normal” environment with fewer restrictions than before the vaccination was available. To accomplish this, we will need the help, cooperation and participation of you and every other member of our college community to maintain a healthy and safe environment. While none of us can ensure the campus will be free from the risk of contracting COVID-19, by working together we can manage and mitigate the risk.

**NMI** has published its updated policies and procedures related to COVID-19 on its [COVID-19 website page](#). These include standard practices for the NMI community for 3 identified levels of threat from the virus, especially as variants of the virus are appearing more frequently in other states with faster transmission rates. NMI anticipates starting the semester at Level One (low threat) with the understanding that issues surrounding vaccine rates and public health developments could require transition to an Action Level involving greater safety measures contingent on the factors below.

- Vaccine rate
- Variant spread
- Breakthrough rate
- Public Health Guidance (Federal, State)

With regards to planning for an on-campus graduation ceremony, we anticipate being able to publish a formal date by the end of September, with hopes that vaccination rates continue to increase, and COVID-19 cases begin dropping so we can be sure that we can deliver a ceremony that is safe for all involved.

Please remember these simple facts:

- Continue to wash/sanitize your hands frequently
- Following state and federal recommendations (even if you are vaccinated): wear a mask inside stores and public areas where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Continue to monitor and communicate to NMI any symptoms that can be identified with COVID-19

Thank you for your hard work and diligence in keeping everyone safe and secure until the pandemic decides to go away.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Dawicki, President  
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