



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Hostos Community:

I hope you and your loved ones are keeping safe and have been enjoying the summer. With our next semester fast approaching, I'd like to update you on preparations for our Fall 2021 return to campus.

On July 26, 2021, the [Chancellor moved](#) the start date for our return to in-person work from August 2 to August 16. Shifting the date by two weeks provided additional time for preparations. As per the Chancellor's directive, college employees can now expect to return and assist our students with plans for the semester.

The health and safety of our campus community is of paramount importance to us at the College. While we all remain focused on serving our students, some colleagues have continued the specific work needed to ensure a safe environment. I wish to extend a special thanks to those individuals—staff in Campus Operations, Human Resources, IT, and Public Safety and members of the College's Reopening Committee—whose hard work and dedication will allow more of us to return to our offices and classrooms.

As you come back to campus, I hope to reassure you by making clear these public health measures at the College:

- **No person may enter a Hostos building unless they are either fully vaccinated (and have proof) or have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from within the past seven (7) days.** Students, faculty, and staff must meet further requirements:
 - Vaccinated people must [submit documents](#) through [CUNYfirst](#) for verification
 - Unvaccinated people must [complete weekly PCR testing](#) at one of [20 CUNY-run locations](#), such as our site located in the Hostos Art Gallery.
- **We continue to require face coverings indoors** for everyone on campus, regardless of vaccination status. This rule meets [updated CDC recommendations \(July 27, 2021\)](#) for wearing masks in public indoor settings as well as [CUNY's temporary mandate \(August 16, 2021\)](#).
- **Physical distancing requirements remain and overall campus occupancy is still limited.** Employees are working a partial remote schedule whenever possible. By rotating staff and faculty working on campus, we continue to limit occupancy and promote physical distancing. In line with the Hostos Reopening Plan, the College will not exceed the 50% maximum occupancy rate allowed in Phase 2.

- **Our Engineering staff continues to follow recommended actions for air and ventilation.** These include:
 - Maximizing outside air in interior spaces;
 - Using high-capture (MERV-13 and MERV-15) filters and UV-C disinfecting lights throughout campus ventilation systems;
 - Continuing daily maintenance inspections to ensure proper airflow, temperature, and humidity levels throughout the campus.

These public health interventions are proven most effective when layered. Therefore, we will continue to use them together in our approach and require you to [follow guidelines when you come on campus](#).

This Thursday, August 19, we will be holding an outdoor Welcome Festival/*Festival de Bienvenida* in the recently inaugurated Evelina Antonetty Playground (located on the Grand Concourse between E. 147 and E. 149 Streets). Following all safety guidelines, we invite the community to celebrate a milestone year and learn more about Hostos with giveaways, raffles, music, food, and information tables. Join us as we illustrate the value of a Hostos education and the opportunities for future students to our local community.

As the College transitions into the Fall 2021 semester, we will proceed with health and safety at the forefront, in consultation with the University and informed by CDC, NYSDOH, and New York City guidelines. Plans will be revisited and may be adjusted when needed to adapt to this ever-evolving landscape.

For more information, updates, and a copy of the Reopening Plan, please continue to visit [the College's COVID-19 Readiness page](#) at <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Ready>.

I am so grateful for the commitment and continued generous support of students, faculty and staff who continue to work together to get through this challenging time. Let us continue to keep in mind the Hostos family, and world family in our shared grief for the COVID losses and ongoing uncertainty in the world. Let us remember there is power in hope and in knowing the value of generosity, determination, persistence, and belief in the future.

Mil gracias y bendiciones,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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