

January 14, 2022

Dear AUB community members,

I would first like to wish you a very Happy New Year 2022. I hope that you were able to benefit from time with your families and loved ones over the holidays, and that you are returning to AUB with a renewed sense of purpose. AUB is truly a beacon in country and region, and it is thanks to you and your efforts that it will long remain so.

With the alarming rise in COVID-19 cases and the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, we have seriously considered our options for the spring term. We have had to achieve a balance, ensuring the safety of our community while facilitating the best possible education for all AUB students. In order to bring the community back to campus in the fall, we raised funds and purchased vaccines to ensure that our entire community could be properly vaccinated. We have succeeded in this enterprise by vaccinating over 99.6% of our community, with a significant percentage also boosted. Our campus is as safe as it possibly can be, and we must all work together to ensure that safety.

With this in mind, the Board of Deans and I are announcing that the spring term will begin in person, as planned, on January 20, 2022, and it is our intention to maintain the superior quality of education and experience we can provide in person.

But for this to work, we are counting on you for several things:

1. You must follow the guidelines of the Expert Committee on COVID-19 while on campus. Namely, you must mask at all times when indoors, and when outdoors, you must mask if you are in a group of three or more.
2. You must be fully vaccinated or exempted. You are expected to obtain your booster as soon as you are eligible, and before March 1, 2022. For further information, contact vaxwg@aub.edu.lb.
3. You must continue to take all appropriate precautions when off campus to ensure the safety of the university community.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all back to campus next week. We are confident that while we are living in troubled times, the spirit of the AUB community will ensure that we thrive and succeed in fulfilling our mission to our students, faculty, and staff, and the communities they and we serve.

Best regards,

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD
President