



AUB Expert Committee on COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT



September 28, 2021

Dear AUB Community,

In the past few weeks, we were all delighted to see AUB come back to life, with many students flocking from the main gate to attend laboratory sessions, clinical training, and remote learning from various areas of the campus. October 1 marks the day when AUB will be open to in-person teaching. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all AUB community members about the important COVID-19 safety guidelines that will make everybody's return to campus safe.

Our recommendations can be summarized by the following equation: **Vaccines + Masks + Distancing + Hand Hygiene = Safer life on campus and outside.**

Vaccines

The ongoing "AUBe Vaccinated" campaign has now reached 95% of the faculty, staff, and student population. In the past few months, the AUB Immunization Center has administered around 42,700 doses of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to the extended AUB community members.

Everyone who has completed the vaccination cycle at AUB or submitted the vaccination certificate can freely access the campus and its facilities, including classes, labs, clinical, libraries and the gym.

The Pfizer BioNTech vaccine is still available for free to unvaccinated AUB community members. It is [a safe and efficacious strategy](#) to reduce the spread of the virus, the development of severe disease, and hospitalization. If you have not received the vaccine yet, you can still book an appointment at the AUB Immunization Center at your earliest convenience: bit.ly/AUBeVaccinated.

If you have proven medical reasons for not taking the vaccine, send a request for an exemption (along with a supporting medical report) to vaxwg@aub.edu.lb (expect a response within 2-3 working days).

Wearing Masks

Masks need to be [correctly worn](#) and kept on at all times indoors (classes, laboratories, clinical, libraries, sports facilities, and shared areas such as hallways), except when eating in cafeterias and lounges with vaccinated colleagues and friends. Masks should also be worn in outdoor settings, such as crowded areas, when you cannot secure a 3-6 feet distance (1-2 meters) between you and others.

Physical Distancing

There will be no capacity or distancing restrictions in classrooms and other indoor areas on campus. Try maintaining a 3-6 feet distance (at least 1 meter) between you and others around you whenever possible.

Hand Hygiene

Wash your hands or use sanitizers frequently.

Stay Home if You Feel Sick

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and isolate from others; call your healthcare provider at the University Health Services or another healthcare provider for testing and care. Check our [FAQs page for further information](#) or [CDC guidance on what do if you feel sick](#).

Keeping Yourself and Your Campus Safe

Let us make our return to campus a truly happy and memorable experience and let us keep on fighting COVID-19 together.

The protection officers and personnel on campus facilities will remind you about wearing masks and maintaining a safe distance in the presence of others. However, it is everybody's responsibility to ensure that health and safety guidelines are followed. In particular, if you see someone wearing a mask improperly (or not wearing it indoors or in common areas outdoors), or not keeping a safe distance, **remind them about the safety guidelines.**

Through our collective compliance and responsibility, we will ensure a safe and enjoyable return to campus to all.

Carine J. Sakr, MD, MPH
Chair, Expert Committee on COVID-19

