MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty and Staff

FROM: Mark B. Rosenberg

SUBJECT: As Omicron spreads in our community, please get vaccinated and test frequently to ensure your safety

DATE: December 17, 2021

Dear members of the university community,

With reports of an increase in the positivity rate and hospitalizations in Miami-Dade County due to the spread of the Omicron variant, it is critical to remain vigilant and take necessary steps to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy.

As we celebrate the holiday season, COVID-19 remains a real threat, especially to those who are not vaccinated. **Vaccines remain the most powerful tool against the spread of COVID-19.** If you are already vaccinated, thank you for doing your part to keep us safe. Remember that boosters are now widely available. If you are not vaccinated, now is the time to do so. While evidence shows that people who are vaccinated can get COVID-19, their symptoms are usually milder. If you are unvaccinated, you are assuming a significant risk to your health.

The Omicron variant spreads more easily than the original virus, and testing continues to be a powerful tool to contain the virus. **On-campus testing will be available during the holiday break.** Please get tested if you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus. Also, if you have frequented a crowded indoor area and are concerned about being exposed, please get tested.

Below is the schedule for **COVID-19 testing on campus**, through our partnership with Curative:

- **PG5 trailer at MMC**: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- **Parkview at MMC**: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday
**BBC**: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Sunday

Please note that all sites will be closed December 24-25 and January 1. Only the PG5 at MMC site will open during regular hours of operation on December 31.

Testing will also be available at FIU’s clinical sites. Faculty and staff should call FIU Health at 305-348-3627 to schedule an appointment. Tests are administered Monday-Friday. Students should call the FIU Student Health Center at 305-348-2401 to make an appointment at MMC or 305-919-5620 to make an appointment at BBC. Please note that testing at our clinical sites will be closed December 23-January 3.

FIU will be open and fully operational for the Spring 2022 semester, and on-campus vaccinations will resume on Monday, Jan. 10 at the Student Health centers and the FIU Health Clinic. For a list of off-site vaccination locations, you can visit [FIU’s Panthers Protecting Panthers website](#).

Here are other things you can do to help slow the spread of Omicron, especially during the holidays:

- Whenever possible, avoid crowded indoor spaces and use face coverings where they make sense to protect yourself and others.
- If you plan to visit campus, please complete the [P3 app](#) questionnaire before arriving.
- COVID-19 is not the only airborne disease: We are in the middle of flu season. Flu vaccines are widely available at local pharmacies and at our clinic sites on campus.

Taking these simple steps will help ensure that you have a safe and healthy holiday season. If you have any questions, please call the FIU Help Desk at 305-348-5100.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to keep our Panther family safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Rosenberg  
President