

Dear Students,

Welcome back to Cardozo! Words alone cannot express how happy your faculty, administrators, deans, staff, and I are to see you back in person here in NYC. We have worked hard over the summer to make the in-person experience as safe as possible so that you can focus on your classes, studies, clinics, journals, extracurricular activities, and everything else that our wonderful community has to offer.

I'm writing with a reminder that EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU MUST ALSO DO YOUR PART TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE. Cardozo is a shared space. Our actions affect everyone in the building, and we all bear some responsibility for each other's wellbeing. We are very happy to report that our community—students, staff, and faculty—is over 99% vaccinated. As the pandemic continues to develop, however, it is essential that we all continue to take steps to enable in-person learning to continue safely and effectively.

In particular, that means:

- **You must wear a mask—covering both your mouth and your nose—at all times in the Cardozo building.** The only exception is while actively eating and drinking, and even then it should be only for a short time. **DO NOT** nurse a beverage or nibble a snack for the purpose of keeping your mask off. Faculty and staff will actively enforce correct mask-wearing. More specifically—
 - ***Eating is prohibited in classrooms and the library.*** Drinking is permitted.
 - Faculty have discretion to impose penalties for violating the mask rules in their classrooms, including ejection from class for repeated violations.
 - We have already seen several violations of our mask policy in the library. As a result, the following rules are in place for the library, effective immediately:
 - If you are caught without a mask, or wearing a mask incorrectly, you will be warned. A second infraction will result in ejection and your name will be recorded.
 - Two ejections will result in your loss of library privileges for the duration of the semester.
 - Please do not be shy about reminding each other to wear masks and to wear them correctly. We should all feel a sense of protectiveness and care about keeping our space safe.
- **If you feel sick, please stay home and get tested for Covid.** All classes are being recorded and professors will excuse absences for illness.
 - ***Please note that we are using Zoom only for recording purposes.*** All courses are still being taught in person. Do not attempt to join the Zoom meetings that are being created for your courses. If you must miss class, the recording will be available through Zoom tab on the course Canvas page.
- **If you test positive for Covid, you must quarantine for at least 10 days from the date of testing and 24 hours without symptoms. ****Please contact the Office of Student Services immediately if you receive a positive test.****** The Office must be informed of your status to carry out contact tracing. The Dean of Students and her team are available to provide advice, counseling, and support during your illness and quarantine, including discussing options for extended absences should the need arise.

- When a student reports a Covid case to us, we will take the following steps, adhering to the guidance of YU's medical director and federal and state health authorities:
 - We will notify the professor and students in each class the student attends that there has been a positive case. Students in the class who are not "close contacts," as defined below, should monitor themselves for symptoms and may consider getting tested, but need not take any additional steps if asymptomatic.
 - We contact trace and notify any "close contacts" of their possible exposure. "Close contacts" will be anyone seated within 6 feet in the classroom, including those seated next to, in front, and behind the student in lecture courses, most students in seminar courses, and others the student identifies with whom they have been in recent close proximity. "Close contacts" should monitor for symptoms, and are encouraged to get tested between 3 and 5 days after their last exposure. If you develop symptoms, then you **must** quarantine and get tested. (Close contacts who have a medical or religious vaccine exemption **MUST** quarantine for at least 10 days following the exposure and get tested between 3 and 5 days after.)

We are all in this together. Thank you for doing your part to ensure a terrific and safe semester. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to the Office of Students Services.

Best,
Mike Burstein

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Michael J. Burstein (he/him/his)
Vice Dean and Professor of Law