

January 20, 2022

Dear Students,

As we finish week 2 of the semester, I want to thank all of you for your tremendous efforts in getting the semester started. It is a challenging time but there are some indications that the Omicron virus may be peaking in our area. Though our environment continues to be very dynamic, this is good news. I applaud your efforts in following our protocols – I believe they have been key to our ability to hold classes in person and in keeping the campus open. Below are updates I hope you will find useful.

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Update

[Proof of the booster](#) is required to be uploaded into the [Wellness Portal](#) by January 31 or within 14 days of becoming eligible for the booster. I am happy to report that Wegmans will be on campus for several dates in late January/early February to administer boosters to faculty, staff and students. Details about the free clinics can be found [here](#).

The [RIT Safety Plan](#) continues to guide our COVID-19 response and the [RIT Ready](#) website is the best source for staying informed. I encourage you to check both frequently. Also, all university communications about RIT's COVID-19 response can be found [here](#).

Support for Students in Quarantine/Isolation/Illness

RIT faculty and staff are committed to supporting academic continuity for students who are in quarantine/isolation or experiencing other illnesses. Faculty, while ready to help you maintain your academic progress, do not have to change the modality of their classes and you are still responsible for completing assignments, projects, and other work. You can inform faculty that you are unable to attend class due to quarantine, isolation or other illness by email or by using the Course Absence Requests widget in myCourses. The widget includes a fillable PDF that you can complete and email to your faculty specifying the duration of the remote access need.

Please do not attend class if you are ill. Faculty may ask to see correspondence related to quarantine and isolation that you receive through the myLife portal but you do not have to provide any additional medical details.

General Support

The few first weeks of the semester are critical to your academic success. You will be challenged by faculty as they help you grow and achieve and there are many resources available to you for managing stress and overcoming challenges. First and foremost, connect early with your faculty. Let them know if you are struggling with a concept, have to miss class for any reason, or just want to chat. Visit the [Academic Success Center](#) for tutoring or help with managing your time. Check in with your academic advisor. Get involved in activities that support your physical and mental health and your outside interests. RIT has extensive [health and wellness services](#) – take advantage of them. Don't be afraid to ask for help whenever you need it.

SPRING SEMESTER UPDATES

Spring Pulse Surveys

A pulse survey will be distributed later this week to undergraduate students. It is focused on collecting information to help determine the percentage of undergraduate courses to be offered online in fall 2022. I encourage you to take a few minutes to respond to the survey.

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., will deliver the keynote address at the Expressions of King's Legacy on January 27, at noon in the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. Details can be found [here](#).

Freeze Fest

[Freeze Fest](#), a week-long celebration of winter is coming up soon – January 28-February 6. Join in the celebration which includes FreezeFest swag and other events. It is a great opportunity to take a break from your studies and have fun.

FINALLY...

I remain hopeful that Omicron will peak soon in our community and that operations will be more normal as the semester progresses. If you have questions or concerns about academic matters, you are welcome to contact me at provost@rit.edu. I wish you all the very best.

Sincerely,

Ellen Granberg, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs