

Dear Art Department Students,

As Chair of the Department of Art, I wanted to welcome you to the fall 2021 academic school year and let you know that over the summer, faculty and staff have been eagerly prepping to have face-to-face classes again. We have all been looking forward to seeing you in the classrooms and labs in what we hoped would be a relatively normalized semester of classes. Of course, we are still looking forward to seeing you in face-to-face classes, but to do this, we all need to pull together to ensure the safety of our Art Department community.

Unfortunately, the fact that we (as a country and state) fell short of vaccination goals - coupled with the highly transmittable nature of the COVID-19 Delta variant - has led the art department faculty to reconsider what we can safely do in our classes during this new pandemic period. We are working our hardest to navigate through a particularly uncertain, tumultuous, and extra stressful time. We are also aware that many people have expressed new anxiety over this ever-shifting situation. Be assured that we are constantly thinking about your safety and safeguarding it while balancing curricular needs in relation to classroom and lab limitations and needed safety practices.

Although students are the largest group in our community that makes up the Art Department, we need to keep in mind the safety needs of our faculty and staff, many of whom have small children, and some that are either in high-risk categories themselves or live with someone who is. This means we all must support one another the best we can by following all the CDC safety guidelines and University expectations to minimize exposure and spread of the virus.

If you feel sick, you should get a COVID test. If it comes back positive, you are expected to report it to the **FSU SAFER** website so that they can do follow up tracing, ensuring exposed individuals are notified and that any required isolation is officially managed in the best way possible.

Below are some reminders of general departmental safety expectations and guidelines, as well as a few helpful links:

- At the Department level, we are establishing additional cleaning and prevention practices in all the studio labs and classrooms by providing extra cleaning materials and disposable masks in those rooms.
- We encourage the faculty to have outdoor meetings and projects as well as some zoom meetings, if possible.
- Everyone is expected to wear masks when in class and indoors.
- Everyone who medically can be is expected to be vaccinated. Vaccinations are free to all FSU students, faculty, and staff.
- Anyone who feels sick is expected to stay home for 24 hours, then get tested for COVID, and report any positive result to the FSU SAFER Team for contact tracing at: <https://stayhealthy.fsu.edu/safer>
- All positive cases should remain isolated for 10 days
- FSU official COVID update site: <https://uhs.fsu.edu/coronavirus>

- Testing Q&A page: <https://uhs.fsu.edu/coronavirus/testing-faqs/general>
- FSU Counseling & Psychological Services: <https://counseling.fsu.edu>

And finally, please remember to always communicate with your professor promptly about any concerns or problems you might have. Your instructors are there to help you, as are all the people in the Art Office. We are all in this together, and I believe that by working together as a community of supportive individuals, we will get through this and channel it into creating compelling art that resonates with the times.

Sincerely,
Lilian Garcia-Roig
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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



**This message to all students, faculty and staff has been approved by
Florida State University President John Thrasher.**

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

The Florida Board of Governors and the entire State University System, which includes Florida State University, expects all members of our campus community to do their part to ensure a safe and successful fall semester.

All of us at Florida State University have an obligation to prevent further transmission of COVID-19. We are in this together, and each and every one of us plays an important role in furthering the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors and our loved ones.

To be clear:

- **We expect everyone to wear a face covering or mask at all times when inside any FSU facility, even if you are vaccinated.** This includes all of our students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors. Recent studies and guidance from the CDC state that both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals can transmit the current COVID-19 variant to unvaccinated persons. We expect you to help mitigate the spread by wearing a mask.
- **We expect everyone to be vaccinated against COVID-19, even if you've had COVID-19 in the past.** If possible, aim to be fully vaccinated, but if unable, strive to have at least one shot of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine no later than August 22. Please visit vaccine.fsu.edu for walk-in clinic dates and hours at the Tucker Center in Tallahassee or vaccines.gov to locate a COVID-19 vaccine provider near you.
- **We expect you to stay home when sick, self-quarantine and get tested for COVID-19 no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms begin.** You can test for no cost at the Tucker Center. Schedule your test at uhs.fsu.edu/coronavirus/testing.
- **And finally, we expect you to continue to practice good hygiene habits such as washing your hands frequently.**

Together, we can slow the spread of this virus and enjoy a fulfilling, successful campus experience during the upcoming academic year.

Thank you.

John Thrasher
President, Florida State University

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