



Vancouver Island University Faculty Association
900 Fifth Street Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5S5
250-740-6339 viufa.ca

August 17, 2021

Re: VIUFA Call for Mask and Vaccine Mandates at VIU

Dear Dr. Saucier,

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of VIUFA. We are asking VIU to return to BC's Stage 2 Pandemic Guidelines of requiring masks to be worn in all indoor spaces at VIU. We are also asking that the University adopt a vaccination mandate for all members of the VIU community and that both of these measures be reviewed every four months.

Based on news reports, guidance from the US CDC¹, and preliminary evidence published from multiple scientific sources², it is our belief the Covid-19 Delta Variant poses a renewed risk to students and all employees at VIU, due in part to its observed ability to be transmitted by both vaccinated and unvaccinated populations and its increased severity of disease in all age groups. We also note, our campuses are major hubs in their respective communities, heightening the chances for the virus to be spread to the more vulnerable members of those communities. As educators, our responsibilities to our many stakeholders require us to exercise caution beyond the prescribed minima. I trust you will agree with us, that the University needs to adopt these measures because VIU has an obligation to be proactive in demonstrating leadership.

Thank you, we look forward to working with you and your team in the short time still available to us before the next semester gets underway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Jaeger".

Chris Jaeger
President, VIUFA

¹ [Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science | CDC](#)

² [Transmission event of SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant reveals multiple vaccine breakthrough infections - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)