

# SPRING 2022

## CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS



### *LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Dear Cornish Community,

As the winter break comes to a close I wanted to reach out with the promised update about the spring 2022 semester as it relates to the pandemic. As you know, the Omicron variant is spreading throughout the country and case rates are increasing daily in King County. Academic and administrative leadership are working to anticipate the potential impacts of this highly transmissible variant on our campus community. In alignment with other colleges and universities in King County and across the country, Cornish College of the Arts will begin the Spring 2022 semester with the first week of courses running fully online. The Cornish Commons will re-open for residents as planned, with a return date of Sunday, Jan. 16.

In this way, we will enable individuals who must travel and risk greater exposure to the virus to have time to settle in and quarantine, if necessary, before returning to in-person learning. This decision is based on the most recent data and guidance available from government and public health officials to help us minimize disruptions to our living and learning community. I know that this is not how any of us hoped to begin the spring semester, however, we will continue to make agile and proactive decisions that are in the best interest of the health and safety of our campus community.

#### **Please review the following items to start the Spring 2022 semester:**

- **Fully Online Learning** - the week of Jan. 18. - Students should plan on attending the first class session of each of their classes online via Zoom at the scheduled course time (course times can be found on your schedule in Compass). Please access your course Canvas pages/sites for syllabi and other course materials. Do remember that it is a campus holiday on Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and campus will be closed.
- **Boosters and Vaccinations** - The Cornish COVID-19 Vaccination Policy remains in place for all employees and students. A booster shot of a coronavirus vaccine is strongly encouraged for everyone as they become eligible and Cornish employees are allowed to use work time in consultation with their supervisor to schedule a booster shot. Please note that Washington State's definition of "fully vaccinated" does not include a booster shot at this time. Any potential changes to College vaccination requirements will be made in accordance with state and/or local public health guidance.

- **Campus Operations and Facilities** - Campus will remain operational during this time — including housing, library, Multimedia Checkout Center, makerspaces, dining, advising and student services. Buildings will remain largely open during posted building hours and students and faculty can reserve work/practice spaces via Coursedog during this time for solo use. No in-person group rehearsals/practice will be permitted until after Jan. 23. While some offices will be offering services in-person, others will be operating remotely through the week of Jan. 18.
- **Campus Productions** - At this time spring productions, performances, and exhibits are moving forward as planned.
- **High-Quality Masking** - The College's Mask Mandate remains in place for spring semester 2022. Masks must fit snugly against your face and need to cover your nose and mouth at all times. For more information regarding proper mask covering and usage please go to the King County Masking Guidelines. Please note that surgical masks, which meet the national standard (ASTM2/3), will be available on campus.
- **Upcoming Community Gatherings:** Please look out for subsequent emails about gatherings to discuss spring protocols and planning.

As we begin this semester, it is important to note that a lot has changed since the pandemic began in the spring of 2020. We now have numerous tools and strategies available to help us mitigate the risk of infection and illness and are better prepared as a community. It is my hope that this approach will provide the least disruption possible to our living and learning community. We are committed to a return to in-person education and look forward to that happening on Monday, Jan. 24.

Thank you for your flexibility, perseverance and understanding as we all work together to adjust plans and focus on keeping the safety of the Cornish Community and the quality of our learning and work experiences as top priorities.

Sincerely,

Raymond Tymas-Jones, Ph.D.  
President  
Cornish College of the Arts