



UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

August 10, 2021

Dear Prospective Students and Families of the Fall 2021 Rome semester,

I write you with the second important update, in as many weeks, about the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy. The breaking news and change of policy announced in this letter supersedes relevant information and guidance we shared with you in both my letter of July 29th and our town-hall meeting of August 6th. Yesterday, **Italy published a new law requiring students coming to study to meet the same criteria necessary for an Italian citizen to obtain Italy's "Green Pass"**. **Due to this new law, all students participating in the Fall 2021 Rome semester need to meet one of the following 2 requirements:**

- **The student has received a vaccination against COVID-19 since March 20, 2021**
- **The student can demonstrate recovery from COVID since June 20, 2021**

More details of the new law and the way in which its interpretation results in the requirements in bold is provided below.

The new information is contained in a law that was passed on the evening of Thursday, August 5, 2021 and was published yesterday. Called [Dlg. 6 Agosto 2021 n. 111](#), the law lays out a series of measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19 in schools and on public transport starting on September 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021.

A summary of its main points relevant to the UD Rome Program is as follows:

- Access to Schools:
 - students and school employees (faculty, staff and third party vendors) must submit to Director Peter Hatlie either proof of a vaccination against COVID-19 (the CDC white card or equivalent) or proof of recovery from COVID-19 (an official medical record in English and certified Italian translation) **prior to arrival on campus** in order to attend in-person classes and activities; alternatively, a person may provide a negative COVID-19 test result every 48 hours to be present on campus. [Please Note: in light of the length of the semester, and the likelihood of significant disruption to the delivery of the academic program, the UD Rome Program will not permit students, staff and faculty to participate in the program through the use of this option].
 - school directors are legally bound to keep on file such certificates of vaccination or recovery for each and every employee and student;
 - employees failing to comply with this new regulation must be denied access to school grounds and can be fired on the grounds of "unjustified absence" from work;
 - students failing to comply with this new regulation must be denied access to school grounds and can be dismissed on the grounds of "unjustified absence" from school;
- Access to Certain Forms of Public Transport: proof of vaccination, proof of recovery or proof of a negative test (within the previous 48 hours) is required for access to all types of long-distance public transportation, including, airplanes, trains, ships, inter-regional bus services, and private buses.

As you can see, the present law, practically speaking, allows school access only to people fully vaccinated within the last nine months, or recovered from COVID in the last six months. Because qualification based on recovery from COVID is based on a 6 or 9 month rolling window, then students recovered from

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COVID prior to June 20, 2021 or vaccinated prior to March 20, 2021 would lose qualification at some point during the Rome semester. The law applies to all schools in Italy offering in-person classes and activities, including universities in general and the University of Dallas Rome Program in particular.

We regret to report this sudden and significant turn of events, and yet we have no choice except to deal with its consequences and revise the attendance policies outlined in my letter of July 29, 2021. For students who qualify under the new rules, with demonstrated vaccination or natural immunity, nothing has really changed for the worse; in fact, the likelihood of your avoiding infection on and off campus while attending the fall 2021 semester improves now that these stricter anti-COVID-19 measures are in force nationwide. For those who do not qualify under the new rules, your options are now unfortunately limited. You can now choose either to seek a vaccination in compliance with the new law or withdraw from the fall Rome semester and attend classes in Irving. For those intending to choose the latter option, i.e. a withdraw from the fall 2021 Rome Program, the deadline for withdrawing without loss of Rome fees and deposits (except the visa fee and airfare, which were already non-refundable) made to date is Friday, August 13, 2021. Please send all such requests to udrome@udallas.edu. Upon receiving confirmation of your withdrawal, you will be directed to the designated administrator(s) in the Office of Student Affairs and Dean's Office of Constantin College to initiate your registration for the fall semester in Irving.

If you have questions about any aspect of this letter, want to discuss your options further, or have more general questions about the fall 2021 semester, please contact Rebecca Davies, the Director of the Rome Office in Irving by phone at 972-721-5206 or email at bdavies@udallas.edu. If you prefer to contact me on the Rome Campus, I will respond promptly to email delivered at phatlie@udallas.edu and will be happy to follow up with a call, too.

Sincerely Yours,



Peter Hatlie, Dean, Director, VP, Prof. of Classics