



August 16, 2021

Dear MAUT members,

We have heard from many of you in regard to your concerns for a return to in-person teaching in the fall in the face of rising infections and the Delta Covid variant. As a result MAUT Council has recently called for McGill to implement a vaccine mandate, and we have sent the message below to the Principal and Provost:

While many of our members are excited to return to in-person teaching and to reconnect with their students, we are also hearing numerous expressions of concern as Covid-19 infections once more rise in Quebec and elsewhere. We recognise that Quebec has one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, nevertheless there are still members of the community who have chosen not to receive a vaccination. Given the very high infectivity of the Delta variant, and the fact that even those who have been vaccinated can be infected, we request that McGill implement a vaccine mandate for all staff and students at McGill. This would be consistent with decisions made by other major universities such as the University of Ottawa, University of Toronto and Western. We also recognise that the legal situation in Quebec is not the same as Ontario, but It is our opinion, based on legal advice, that McGill does have the authority to impose a vaccine mandate on the basis of ensuring a safe and healthy working environment. With this in mind, MAUT Council has recently passed the following motion:

“MAUT is in favour of requiring vaccines for McGill University students and staff, with limited exceptions for medical and religious reasons. McGill should facilitate access to the vaccine for international students, as well as for any others who may not have had the opportunity.”

We therefore call on you to implement a vaccine mandate, ideally as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing back from you on this.

Best wishes,

Andrew

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