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WORCESTER – The Massachusetts State University system is joining a growing number of colleges and universities across the country and Commonwealth requiring their campus community to receive a booster shot of an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccination.

“Last semester, the Presidents of the nine universities required anyone working, attending in-person classes, conducting research on campus, living in residence halls, or participating in campus life activities to be fully vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccine, said Dr. James F. Birge, President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and chair of the Massachusetts State University Council of Presidents. “The presidents expect that all students and employees will also receive an approved COVID-19 booster shot within thirty (30) days of becoming eligible.”

The Massachusetts State Universities have been leaders in the Stop the Spread Campaign and throughout the pandemic have made COVID-19 vaccination requirements, testing for students and employees, mask-wearing, enhanced sanitation protocols, and contact tracing a priority on our campuses.

“We want to thank all our students, faculty and staff for embracing our call to protect our campuses and local communities through enhanced COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Because of the commitment of our students and workforce to the health and wellbeing of our campus community, the state universities have had less than a 1% positivity rate through the fall and have approximately 95% of our system fully vaccinated,” said President Birge. “With the continuing transmission of the Delta variant and the emergence of the Omicron variant, the safety of our campus communities remains at the forefront of our planning as we prepare to return to in-person learning and campus life for the spring 2021.”

In addition to requiring booster shots for the spring, the state universities will continue to operationalize other CDC-recommended COVID health and safety protocols, such as mask-wearing policies, COVID testing for students and employees, and enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of campus buildings and residence halls. The universities will continue to offer a traditional schedule of in-person classes in addition to online and hybrid options for both residential and commuter student populations. The nine campuses in the system are Bridgewater, Fitchburg, Framingham, Salem, Westfield and Worcester State Universities, Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.