Dear Einstein Community:

Over the past 16 months, we’ve accomplished something remarkable together that a year ago seemed unimaginable: moving meaningfully toward a more normal campus life. From the outset of the pandemic, I’ve said that we will get through the challenges together, and we have done so. I’m so proud of all of you and grateful that we’ve been successful in our efforts.

We are now entering what we call Phase 3: namely restoring normal occupancy levels in labs, increasing in-person classes for our students, and having administrative and research staff fully return to campus. As we implement these changes in the coming weeks, we will retain the strategies that have served us well thus far—and have resulted in no new COVID cases being reported among our campus community for more than three weeks. These include:

- Being informed by science, medicine, and safety in making decisions and establishing new policies;
- Getting vaccinated;
- Uploading our Vaccination Certification Cards (as required confirmation); and
- Employing safety practices—mask wearing, social distancing, and good hygiene—as appropriate.

What Phase 3 Means for Our Campus
To date, 70% of us who have gotten vaccinated have confirmed that status by uploading our Vaccination Certification Card to Einstein’s occupation health service. Among these individuals are members of 50 Einstein laboratories who have been confirmed as fully vaccinated and may now work together at normal capacity without a mask or social distancing when among their laboratory colleagues.

Still others in our Einstein community have reported being vaccinated and need
only upload their cards through the personalized link emailed to them from Ariel Fishman in the office of institutional research (oir@einsteinmed.org). If you are among these individuals, I strongly encourage you to take this next step. It is critical to our getting back to “normal,” which is key to restoring our collaborative community and enhancing productivity. If you’re having trouble locating your card, please view the “Getting Vaccinated” section of our COVID-19 site to learn what you can do.

As our confirmed vaccination rate increases, we expect that, with few exceptions, all of our faculty and staff will be working onsite as they were before the pandemic. We hope to enter this stage, or Phase 4, in August, when Einstein will once again be a vibrant, in-person campus.

Please watch your email for additional Phase 3 details, including a confirmed timeline for implementing our updated policies and guidelines. While we’re eager to regain our sense of normalcy, we will be flexible and understanding that some individuals may require additional time to transition back fully. We’ll be updating our COVID-19 site so that you can keep abreast of changes and be reminded of important deadlines.

Ultimately, we hope to begin our academic year with a revitalized campus. Our newest students (class of 2025) will be arriving, and it will be a pleasure to see familiar faces once again.

Until that time, we will make our plans and move steadily yet cautiously ahead. I look forward to doing so with all of you.

Sincerely,

Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.
The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer
Montefiore Medicine