Dear Members of the Harvard Community:

Over recent weeks we have seen a rise in COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, primarily associated with the Delta variant. We are monitoring the situation and will continue to update our health and safety guidance as needed. For now, a few things you need to know:

- Our best weapon against the Delta variant is campus-wide vaccination. We all play a role in protecting our community. Please report your vaccination status to Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) if you have not done so already.
- The vaccines work in preventing serious infections. A small percentage of vaccinated persons have experienced “breakthrough” infections, but these cases tend to have mild or moderate symptoms (or no symptoms).
- Nearly all serious COVID-19 infections are among unvaccinated persons.
- Masks are another highly effective way to protect ourselves, colleagues, and our loved ones. For that reason, the University will continue to require masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

As we near the start of the fall semester in a few weeks, many of you are already coming to campus and more will begin returning to campus based on plans determined by your individual School, Department, or Unit. Please check the University's Return to Campus webpage for the latest guidance and helpful resources for faculty, staff, and researchers during this transition.

Thank you again for your commitment to Keep Harvard Healthy as many more members of our community begin returning to campus in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Giang T. Nguyen
Executive Director, Harvard University Health Services