

USJ Vaccination Campaign

Dear Partners of the USJ Community,

Procurement of the Pfizer Vaccine

We are pleased to announce that USJ/HDF is one of the four signatories¹ to the university consortium agreement with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) that resulted after months of negotiations to obtain 320,000 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine to be given to USJ students, faculty, and staff.

The agreement means that in-person academic life on campus, insofar as possible, is to resume at the beginning of the fall semester 2021, while continuing to comply with the preventive health measures that will remain essential until the end of the pandemic².

In addition, the agreement undertakes vaccinating underserved communities in cities far from the Capital, in line with the announcement made by the Minister of Public Health in February 2021.

It is noteworthy to mention that, since February 2021, the Vaccination Center of the Family Medicine Center at HDF has administered the two Pfizer doses to more than 45,000 patients under outstandingly favorable conditions from the standpoint of reception, care, and medical follow-up, according to written and oral testimonies from the vaccinated public.

Vaccination Campaign at USJ

The vaccination of the USJ Community should start this upcoming June.

An *ad-hoc* committee, including representatives, teachers, and students from the University's health science schools and institutes and from Hôtel-Dieu de France, has been formed and is being coordinated by the Secretary General of USJ³, to draw up the roll-out strategy for this campaign and to provide the necessary means and logistical tools for its proper implementation.

People wishing to be vaccinated in the framework of this campaign **will have to register beforehand on the platform of the Ministry of Health.**

We can only encourage all members of our Community as well as every Lebanese citizen and resident of this country to get vaccinated, for their own good and the good of the community at risk of infection.

1. Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ), American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanese American University (LAU), Saint George Hospital University Medical Center

2. [Cf. COVID-19 Preventive Measures Guide](#) prepared by USJ

3. The *ad-hoc* committee includes: Ms. Dolla Sarkis (Vice-Rector for Research), Ms. Marianne Abi Fadel (Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy), Ms. Rima Sassine Kazan (Dean of the Faculty of Nursing Sciences), Ms. Michèle Asmar (Director of the Higher Institute of Public Health), Ms. Gloria Abdo (Director of the Department of Student Life), Ms. Éline Féghali (Student), Mr. Roland Tomb (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine), Mr. Richard Maroun (Dean of the Faculty of Science), Mr. Fouad Maroun (Secretary General of USJ), Mr. Fadi Tarraf (Student), Dr. Georges Dabar (Director of Medical Affairs at HDF) and Dr. Rémi Daou (Director of the Family Medicine Center at HDF)

Fundraising Campaign

We are committed to conduct this vaccination campaign free of charge. Vaccine recipients, whether from the USJ Community or not, will not be charged for the vaccine.

However, USJ will have to cover the high cost of the vaccine. To this end, and with the help of the USJ Foundation, the fundraising arm of USJ and HDF, a special fund will be set up to collect your donations, however small, to cover the additional expenses incurred by USJ for the purchase of the vaccine. You can contribute to this fund by clicking on the following link "[USJ Vaccination Campaign](#)".

Solidarity has always been our guiding principle and we intend to stick to it today and tomorrow.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all those who played a significant role in securing this vaccine batch: the Minister of Health, Dr. Hamad Hassan, and his team, especially his senior advisor, Dr. Mohamad Haidar, as well as Dr. Abd Al Rahman Bizri, President of the National Committee for Coronavirus Vaccination. We are all indebted to Mr. George Adwan, President of the Parliamentary Administration and Justice Committee, for his close follow-up and for his advocacy and leadership.

I would also like to thank Dr. Fadlo Khuri, AUB President, Dr. Michel Moawad, LAU President, and Mr. Edgard Joujou, Director of Saint Georges Hospital, and their teams for collaborating on this major achievement, which will have a solid impact on resuming a dynamic academic life in Lebanon.

I commend our joint efforts to help restore a healthy normalcy and to provide hope for better days ahead.

Saint Joseph University of Beirut and its hospital, Hôtel-Dieu de France, which serves more than 18% of the patients in Lebanon, have a long history of leadership in times such as these. We are committed to extending that leadership now and in the upcoming, better days through our joint efforts.

Prof. Salim Daccache s.j.
Rector of Saint Joseph University of Beirut