

## Rizza, Salvatore A.

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**From:** Rizza, Salvatore A.  
**Sent:** Friday, January 7, 2022 1:10 PM  
**To:** families@lists.southernct.edu  
**Subject:** Parent/Family Update: January 7th, 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

Happy New Year!

We hope this email finds you all well. First, this may be the first communication you are receiving from our office. If so, welcome to Southern! We provide several resources to families and send regular communication to help keep you all informed. Please feel free to reach out to our office if you have any questions, thoughts or if we could provide any support to your students. If you would like to be unsubscribed from this list, please visit <https://lists.southernct.edu/mailman/listinfo/families> to unsubscribe or let us know and we will be sure to remove you.

We are less than two weeks away from the first day of Spring 2022 classes (January 19<sup>th</sup>). As we continue to prepare for a new semester, we would like to share some important updates. Most importantly, please see the email below President Bertolino shared with students regarding the start of the Spring semester.

We will also be holding a **Facebook Live Parent/Family Update Event on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm** viewable on the Parent/Family Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/scsuparents>). During this session, we will be featuring the Office of Residence Life and providing more information about the opening of the semester. We know that many of you may not be able to attend at this time but the session will be recorded via Facebook and will be available for viewing at any time. If you have any questions you would like addressed, please feel free to send them to me and we will be sure to address them.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Sal Rizza

Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

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### ***Email from President Bertolino, Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>***

Dear Students,

Following lengthy consultation with the CSCU System Office, the state Department of Public Health and our sister CSU institutions, Southern will begin the spring semester on-ground, as scheduled.

Student move-in will take place on Jan. 18, with in-person, hybrid and online classes commencing Wednesday, Jan. 19, as planned. Residential students will receive a separate email on Monday with details about move-in day.

The decision to resume on-ground operations for the spring semester was made to provide the best possible learning environment for you, our students, while ensuring the continued health and safety of all members of our campus community.

The vaccination requirement for all students – both commuter and residential - will remain in place, with those who have medical or nonmedical exemptions required to undergo weekly testing. We strongly encourage you to get a booster if you are eligible. Griffin Health will provide a walk-in vaccine campus clinic on Tuesday, Jan. 11 from noon to 6 p.m. in the Schwartz programming space.

While in-classroom teaching will resume as scheduled, we will take small steps in other areas for the beginning of the semester, limiting large, in-person gatherings or receptions and encouraging food-to-go strategies in the dining halls. As we continue to promote social distancing, Week of Welcome activities will also be held remotely or postponed to a later time in the semester.

I again emphasize the need for masking and social distancing on campus. Masks will continue to be available at the Adanti Student Center Information Desk, Buley Library Circulation and Security Desks, and Wintergreen Information Desk. We recognize that masks with a close facial fit and more efficient filtration are especially preferable with the Omicron variant. We encourage the use of these and are working to secure KN95, N95 or KN94 masks for distribution.

If you have COVID-like symptoms or have come into contact with someone who has become infected, you should test before returning to campus. Anyone who tests positive off campus should stay home and [self-report](#). Please take the opportunity to refresh your knowledge of our campus [COVID Protocols and Mitigation Strategies](#), which include a self-monitoring checklist if you are feeling ill.

I will continue to update you on any changes to our protocols as we work with the state Department of Public Health and review CDC guidance. In the meantime, if you have questions about our spring reopening, please submit them [here](#) and they will be responded to promptly.

As we prepare to commence a new semester, let us continue to be Southern Strong: taking care of ourselves and each other in a safe and healthy learning and working environment for all.

Sincerely,

Joe Bertolino  
President

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### ***Resources and Information For Parents and Families***

Please also consider the following resources:

#### ***Resources***

We would also like to provide a number of links which have really good information that answers many of the questions you may have.

Helpful Links- <https://inside.southernct.edu/parent-family/helpful-links> , these are a number of helpful links that we have gathered specifically for parents/families that will be helpful now and in the future.

Resources- <https://inside.southernct.edu/inside-southern>, these is another general page filled with links that may be helpful!

Residence Life- <https://inside.southernct.edu/residence-life>, with so many questions regarding residence life, this may be a great place to find information!

Advising- <https://inside.southernct.edu/advising>, information regarding academic advising.

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*You were subscribed to this listserv as your email is listed in your student's profile based on their initial application to Southern.*

*The emails you will receive will include the information we send to your students, additional strategies specifically designed for parents/families and how they can best support their students and general information regarding the university.*

*As we will be intentional on the information we send, we will try not to "flood" your inbox and be very strategic on sending the most pertinent information.*

*We also invite you to join our Parent/Family Facebook Group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scsuparents/>.*

***However, if you prefer not to receive future emails, please unsubscribe by visiting <https://lists.southernct.edu/mailman/listinfo/families> or simply reply to this email.***