



## **COMPARISON OF MASSACHUSETTS & NATIONAL LAW FALL 2022**

### **DEALING WITH COVID-19**

- (1) Because of lessons learned as the pandemic has extended beyond four academic semesters, the structure of this course continues to evolve to deal with the unpredictability and vagaries we all face. It therefore is essential that you read and continue to refer to this Memorandum as well as the Course Syllabus and Calendar throughout the course; together, they constitute the rules and expectations of the course. Please do not rely on what you have heard about the way this course was taught in the past.
- (2) Mass vaccination enabled us to return to live classes last year. There was near unanimity in the belief that this was a good thing. It is our hope that there will be no surge significant enough to cause us to go back to virtual classes.
- (3) Because no one can predict the course of the pandemic, however, it remains possible that the structure and rules of the course will have to be modified once again on short notice. We will communicate any changes via TWEN email blasts, but you will need to routinely check the TWEN site for changes in case you miss any of the notifications.
- (4) Classes will begin in-person and all Comparison students will be fully vaccinated (with few exceptions, all of which have been approved by the Dean). It is possible, however, that one of three additional situations might occur: (1) classes will start live but change to virtual if the scientific/medical information suggests we should no longer meet live, (2) although a very remote possibility at this point, by the beginning of the semester we will not be able to conduct any live classes for the entire semester, or (3) we will not be able to start live, but may be able to shift to live classes later in the semester. The three possibilities involve markedly different approaches to learning and teaching, so your professors are preparing for all of these possibilities.
- (5) Presently, all Comparison students will be required to attend classes and take quizzes and exams live unless one of the circumstances stated above in Paragraph (3) is declared by the Administration; currently, there are no plans for the

remote/virtual administration of classes. Therefore, with the finite exceptions described immediately below, all Comparison students are required to be fully vaccinated in order to attend classes live. Although there will be no excuse (at least initially) from the live attendance requirement, students who have received an approved exemption from Dean Coyne, based on properly supported religious or medical grounds, will be excused from being fully vaccinated in order to attend classes. Such excused students will, however, be required to wear masks at all times on campus and to provide documentation showing negative COVID tests in the manner, and at intervals, set by the Administration.

- (6) If you become ill, even if you do not believe your illness to be caused by COVID, you are required to stop attending classes and to notify both the Registrar and me of your illness. In such case, you will need to supply the Registrar with a negative COVID test as she reasonably requires to be allowed to return to class. We will work with you to give you a reasonable opportunity to make up your work and ensure that you are not penalized for being forthright about your illness. I know it will not happen, but any student who knows s/he is ill, but continues to attend classes and/or exams, will be referred to the deans for potential discipline on the ground of conduct unbecoming of a law student, i.e., purposely risking the health and welfare of MSLAW students, staff, and faculty.
- (7) Please immediately check that you are still registered with TWEN and that your current email address is listed. If you are not registered or have changed your email address, please reregister (see Mick Coyne: [mick@mslaw.edu](mailto:mick@mslaw.edu)) or change your email address on the TWEN platform using the “Manage Account” feature, as the case may be. This is important because most Comparison professors use TWEN as the primary method of communication with the students and I will broadcast any emergency alterations to the course through a TWEN email blast.
- (8) This Memorandum supersedes any conflicting standards or representations made orally or in writing by any individual professor or administrator.
- (9) This Memorandum, the Course Calendar, and Class Syllabus have been posted on the MSLAW website and hard copies will be available in the cafeteria during Registration for the Fall 2022 semester.

Good Luck.