

Dear Mt. SAC Community,

The COVID-19 pandemic is swiftly evolving. We are seeing COVID-19 transmission increase across the country, particularly in populations with lower vaccination rates. After hearing from many people and groups across campus, it is clear that we must strengthen our approach to the virus to keep our community safer. The reasons are plentiful and significant, particularly the widespread surge of the highly contagious delta variant and the significant percentage of those still unvaccinated.

With that in mind, the Mt. San Antonio College Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution Friday night, authorizing the college to develop and implement a COVID-19 vaccine and testing program for the Fall 2021 semester. In summary, Mt. SAC will require all students and employees on campus to be vaccinated OR test negative for COVID-19 each week. I wanted to alert you as soon as possible that we are quickly and aggressively implementing a number of key measures to protect our campus community that will directly impact you:

- **STUDENT VACCINATION/TESTING REQUIREMENT**

Mt. SAC is developing a new requirement for students studying on the physical campus to either (1) show proof of vaccination OR (2) test negative for COVID-19 weekly. The college is working through the details of this requirement. We will announce the dates that vaccination submission and weekly testing will begin and provide specifics as soon as possible.

At this time, students should decide whether they will continue their enrollment in person or drop those classes and enroll in online classes by the end of their class add/drop period. Students can visit the Mt. SAC Portal, under the Student Tab (#11 Print your Schedule/Receipt), to view deadlines to drop.

For most 16-week semester classes, the deadline is Friday, September 3, 2021. Fully online students will not be required to show proof of vaccination nor take weekly COVID-19 tests. However, without proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test, on-campus assistance for online students will be limited to select services with a quick transaction, such as to pick up a laptop or briefly visit the bookstore and food pantry.

- **EMPLOYEE VACCINATION/TESTING REQUIREMENT**

Mt. SAC will require employees who work on campus to either (1) show proof of vaccination OR (2) test negative for COVID-19 weekly. Employees can submit proof of vaccination through the HR Verification Form accessible from the Mt. SAC COVID-19 Health website at www.mtsac.edu/covid19. Details on weekly tests will be provided as soon as possible.

Employees who are only working remotely do not have to show proof of vaccination nor take weekly COVID-19 tests. However, without proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test, they are limited to quickly visiting their offices or conducting brief transactions on campus.

- **CAMPUS MASKING REQUIREMENT**

Mt. SAC is committed to requiring masks indoors (regardless of vaccination status) through December 31, 2021. Public health orders may strengthen requirements. Even if the masking order is removed by the county, the college will continue to require masking indoors. This requirement applies to all indoor spaces with limited exceptions. Accommodations must be formally vetted through the ACCESS Center or Student Health Center for students and Human Resources for employees.

These new steps are consistent with the advice of public health experts. The positive test rate for unvaccinated individuals is 243 per 100,000 people, while the rate for fully vaccinated individuals is 66 per 100,000 people. Being fully vaccinated also means that you will be less likely to get severely ill or die. Vaccinated people are about 14 times less likely to be hospitalized, with a hospitalization rate of less than 1 per 100,000 people.

More than 168 million people in the United States have already been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. These vaccines are safe and effective. Their benefits far outweigh the devastating risks of COVID-19. You can get a vaccine free of charge at doctor's offices, pharmacies and clinics, regardless of health insurance and immigration status. The college has already hosted regular vaccination clinics and developed a testing program. An expansion of those services will be announced soon.

Hundreds of colleges, universities, and businesses have announced similar vaccination and testing requirements. Implementing these steps here will help our college reduce risk as we expand in-person classes and services through the pandemic.

We understand these are significant changes and you likely have more questions. Our Board of Trustees did not make these decisions lightly, staying fully focused on the safety of our community in order to provide the education and training that is critical for our students. We are working as quickly as possible to formulate these plans and announce them to the campus. You can expect a timeline for these requirements by Monday, August 23, 2021, via email as well as our COVID-19 Health website at www.mtsac.edu/covid19.

We are excited to welcome you to Mt. SAC for the Fall 2021 semester, whether you are participating in-person, online, or both!

Bill



Bill Scroggins

President & CEO
President's Office

✉ bscroggins@mtsac.edu

☎ [\(909\) 274-4250](tel:(909)274-4250)

📠 [\(909\) 274-2990](tel:(909)274-2990)

📍 Building: Founders Hall

Mt. San Antonio College

1100 N. Grand Ave.,
Walnut CA 91789

www.mtsac.edu