

ANNOUNCING VACCINE AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

August 2021

EMAIL FROM BILL TO EMPLOYEES/STUDENTS

- **Send to employees via Bill/Carol Monday
August 16, 2021 at 8 a.m.**
- **Send to students via Rave on Monday,
August 16, 2021 at 4 p.m.**

SUBJECT

**New Mt. SAC Vaccine and Testing
Requirements**

BODY

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 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 in weekly tests. Students can decide through the add/drop deadline of September 3, 2021, whether they will continue their enrollment in person or drop those classes and enroll in online classes. 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. Details about this new requirement will be provided as soon as possible.

- **EMPLOYEE VACCINATION/TESTING REQUIREMENT**

Mt. SAC will require employees to either (1) show proof of vaccination or (2) test negative for COVID-19 in weekly tests.

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.

- **CAMPUS MASKING REQUIREMENT**

Mt. SAC is committed to requiring masks indoors 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 Office 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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Scroggins

President/CEO

Mt. San Antonio College