



North Hennepin  
Community College  
A member of Minnesota State

August 20, 2021

Dear Colleagues and Students:

These are ever-changing times. We know there are a number of hurdles to overcome; collectively we will accomplish the Chancellor's directive and guidance by focusing our efforts on these two priorities:

- **To safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of our faculty, staff, and students**
- **To enable students to progress toward their educational goal**

#### **POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES**

This week there was one reported student case and no employee cases.

#### **STATE EMPLOYEE VACCINATION POLICY**

Effective September 8, all state agency employees, including employees of Minnesota State, who are assigned to work at the workplace or otherwise provide agency services outside their home are required to either show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or be tested at least weekly. Teleworkers who wish to access the workplace for more than 10 minutes or provide agency services outside their home will be required to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination before being allowed to do so. This new policy is the Governor's latest effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 and protect Minnesotans, especially as the Delta variant is driving the latest surge in cases. We are working on how you will attest to your vaccination status and how you will access testing and will share details with you in the coming weeks.

#### **STUDENT COVID-19 VACCINATION GUIDELINES**

Minnesota State will not mandate proof of COVID-19 vaccination or require COVID-19 testing for all students. However, effective October 4, 2021 Minnesota State is requiring vaccination attestation for specific student groups or populations that are in settings where there is close and frequent contact with others. Students in the groups below who choose not to provide attestation will need to undergo a COVID test at least once a week. **Which students will be required to provide vaccination attestation:**

- Students who live in a college- or university-owned or managed **residence facilities** must provide vaccination attestation or be subject to weekly testing. Students must be fully vaccinated to be exempted from weekly testing by the implementation date below.
- Students participating in **intercollegiate athletics** consistent with NCAA and Minnesota College Athletic Conference announced vaccine and testing protocols.
- Students who are required to as directed by **clinical or internships sites**. These sites may have requirements or mandates that may go beyond the attestation and testing required by Minnesota State for students in other contexts.
- Colleges and universities can identify additional **student extra-curricular group activities** where social distancing is not possible and that have close and frequent contact with other students (e.g., intramural/club sports, theater productions, choral groups, etc.), where attestation or testing may be required.

#### **COVID TESTING LOCATIONS**

[Find Testing Locations in Minnesota / COVID-19 Updates and Information - State of Minnesota \(mn.gov\)](#)

## **ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES MINNESOTA**

While we all hoped this semester would mark the beginning of our post-pandemic transition, the increasing case numbers in Minnesota, and the Delta variant, remind us that the pandemic is not over. The COVID-19 vaccination is our best defense. For information on the vaccine, please visit NHCC's [Vaccine Resources webpage](#) or the [Minnesota Department of Health vaccine website](#).

## **NEW MASK REQUIREMENT FOR FALL SEMESTER**

Hennepin County has just been identified as an area with substantial transmission and the Chancellor has authorized North Hennepin Community College to require anyone visiting our campus to wear a mask/face covering in public indoor settings, including hallways, classrooms, common areas, and any area outside of a private office or individual work area. **Effective Tuesday, August 3, 2021, this requirement applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees, students, visitors, contractors, and vendors.** A person in a private office or workspace may remove their mask/face coverings when they are alone in that space.

## **RETURNING TO CAMPUS PLANNING**

As plans continue for returning to campus this fall, we will share updates as they become available.

- The Reintegration Plan has been revised to include the new masking mandate for fall semester. [Visit the COVID-19 webpage](#) to view the Reintegration Plan.

## **NEXT OPEN FORUM**

The open forums have been cancelled for the summer. We will reassess the need for the open forums again in the fall.

## **Better Together,**

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