



North Hennepin
Community College
A member of Minnesota State

Engaging students, changing lives

November 13, 2020

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 past week, three employees and six students tested positive for COVID-19. In addition, several employees and students were notified that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. Cases are rising in Minnesota and we are also experiencing an increase at North Hennepin.

- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is concerned that people ages 18-35 are driving the state's community spread of COVID-19 to record highs, many of them with no symptoms and no way of knowing they are positive. MDH believes the possibility of continued spread of the virus as young people visit family and friends for Thanksgiving poses a serious risk, and urges **all** college and university students to get tested prior to the holiday or other opportunities to gather.
- Email communication will be sent to students next week that will include information on free testing sites

ORDER & USE SALIVA KIT BEFORE DECEMBER 31

- Just a reminder that all Minnesota State employees can visit [Employee Home](#) to access a free saliva test kit from Vault Health. Please note the test must be ordered and used before December 31, 2020. [Click here](#) to view Vault Health FAQs, and [click here](#) to view a Vault Health Testing Process Video.

ADDITIONAL TESTING OPTIONS

The COVID-19 testing sites have been significantly expanded, with the addition of more than a dozen new testing locations opening across the state over the next two weeks. **All testing will be free and available to anyone who wants to be tested whether they have symptoms or not, and it will not require insurance.** You can find options for testing at the MDH [link](#), including nasal swab community testing events, saliva community testing sites, home tests, and a map of testing locations throughout the state. We encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity to help protect your family, friends, and community. And, as always, remain vigilant about washing hands, wearing a mask, and remaining socially distant from others both on and off campus.

- Community Nasal Swab Testing: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/community.html>
- Community Saliva Testing: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/saliva.html>
- At Home Testing: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>

PANDEMIC PLANNING OPEN FORUM

The December Pandemic Planning Open Forum is Friday, December 4 at 10:30 a.m. The link to the recorded November Pandemic Planning Open Forum will be sent out in the near future.

Better Together,

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