



September 15, 2021

Dear YCCD Students,

At the September 9, 2021, meeting of the Yuba Community College District Board of Trustees a resolution was adopted to implement a vaccine and testing policy for all YCCD employees and students to be physically present on any of the District's properties, including Woodland Community College, Yuba College, the District Office, and the Lake County, Colusa County, and Sutter County campuses.

We have been monitoring the highs and lows of the pandemic since the Board approved a resolution in May 2020 which declared COVID-19 a public health emergency and directed the Chancellor's office to take any and all actions necessary to continue providing education and preserve the health and safety of our students and staff.

Based on local, state and national data we have learned that people not vaccinated against COVID-19 are most at risk of infection, adverse health consequences, and further spreading COVID-19 to friends, family, colleagues, and the community at large. Just last weekend we experienced seven COVID-19 related fatalities in the Yuba Sutter area, all of whom were unvaccinated.

So consistent with the data, the Board of Trustees have directed the Chancellor's Office to develop and implement a COVID-19 vaccine and testing policy for District employees, students, and others who access any of the District's facilities.

Effective January 24, 2022, all YCCD students must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit to weekly testing in order to be physically present on district property or participate in college or district activities that exceed 15 minutes. This date coincides with the start of the spring term. Students only taking online classes will not be required to comply with the vaccine and testing policy.

To encourage students that have yet to be vaccinated, the District will be implementing a vaccination incentive program. Details of that program will be announced in the coming months and will provide a monetary or gift card incentive to fully vaccinated students enrolled for the spring semester.

To be considered fully vaccinated, the vaccine must be FDA approved; or have an emergency use authorization from the FDA. The District will follow requirements from the CDPH in determining what documents will be acceptable as proof of vaccination, and all of the information provided will be kept in strict confidence, and in compliance with State of California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA) and the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

If a vaccine booster becomes necessary while the District's vaccination and testing policy is in effect, the District's definition of a fully-vaccinated individual will be expanded to include the necessary booster shot.

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Testing will be offered as an alternative to being fully-vaccination. Unvaccinated individuals will need to be tested no less than once a week with a COVID-19 test that is either approved by, or has emergency use authorization, from the US Food and Drug Administration.

For a student not fully vaccinated and refusing to submit to testing, the District will work with that individual to determine whether there is a reasonable accommodation (medical and/or religious). The District is also committed to not discriminate against any individual that receives an exemption from the vaccine or testing.

While visitors and vendors will not be subject to the vaccination or testing policy, they will be required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, while indoors on any district property. In addition, masking for all large activities, such as attending an outdoor athletic event, will follow the guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local county health officials.

This was not an easy decision for the Trustees, but one they believe in necessary to help ensure a safe and healthy workplace and educational environment for all concerned. We are not alone in establishing such a policy, as of September 2, 2021 thirty-seven (51%) of the community college district in California have adopted similar vaccine requirements.

As we move toward the January 24, 2022 implementation date, we will provide regular updates on implementation procedures and processes.

Sincerely,

James L J Houpis
Interim Chancellor

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