

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: **Hiring Freeze, COVID Testing, and Student Activities (Update #118)**

Date: December 9, 2020

I hope everyone is moving smoothly through the week. Students should be taking advantage of the many [resources available](#) to them as they prepare for next week's exam period. Faculty and staff: please remind them when you have that opportunity.

Attention to health continues to be front and center. If you need a [COVID-19 test](#), please visit these schedules for the county test sites. As you have likely heard, Maryland is in the middle of a surge in infections. The number of people hospitalized due to COVID is higher than at any point during the pandemic so far. Please continue to practice protocols, even as we may be distracted by the promise of the vaccine.

I hope you all saw yesterday's memo communicating the College's [hiring freeze](#), which goes into effect next Monday, December 14. While the College has been very conservative about hiring most recently, we are now moving to formalize this freeze, with all regular budgeted positions for faculty and staff now frozen. These steps are being taken in response to anticipated enrollment declines, and potential decreases in county and state revenues.

There are exceptions—grant funded positions and part-time faculty hiring, for example—please review, so please review the full memo for more details on those and information on student workers and casual temp staff. As the College remains focused on providing excellent academic instruction, we are also working to protect our existing employees.

Next week will include another Mobile Market on Wednesday, December 16, on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Student Life continues to sponsor [events](#) that keep students engaged while we remain in this remote environment, including Snacks with Santa, a calligraphy workshop, and an event on stress-relief through nutrition. Their creativity never ceases to amaze me.

Have a safe and healthy week.