

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: **Summer Professional Development, Student Resources, Vaccines (Update #170)**

Date: May 24, 2021

I hope you all enjoyed Friday's commencement celebration as much as I did. It was so inspiring to see another class of accomplished graduates launch out into the world.

In case you have not seen it, summer [professional development](#) opportunities are open with several learning pathways related to fighting burn out, addressing COVID-19 trauma in class, and social justice in an inclusive curriculum.

While some of our faculty and staff are taking a break, for others, this week marks another step into summer classes. For those of you planning to teach summer classes, please remember to draw students' attention the variety of resources we have to support their learning, including [virtual tutoring](#), [library access](#), and applications for federal [emergency student assistance](#) through Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. Students who were not eligible in earlier rounds were recently made eligible—DACA, Dreamers, and international students—so please have them check the website for updated applications tailored to their needs.

As always, the College is carefully watching the COVID vaccination rate in Montgomery County. As of today, 50 percent of Montgomery County residents are fully vaccinated, while 61 percent have received one shot. The county is moving steadily toward its goal of maximum possible vaccinations. Both of the county's primary indicators—new confirmed cases and test positivity rate—measure the risk of COVID transmission as “very low,” a striking contrast to this time last year. If you still need a COVID-19 vaccine, [please make an appointment](#) as soon as possible. If you would prefer to be vaccinated on the [Germantown Campus](#), please make an appointment. Children over 12 years old are also being vaccinated there with a parent or guardian's consent.

The College will be taking some first steps soon in gradually returning more in person operations to our campuses. My Wednesday message will have more details about this and about the June forums which will respond to employee questions about operational changes. Stay tuned for virtual locations and times. In the meantime, stay safe and take some well-deserved rest.