

**To:** Montgomery College Employees

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**Subject:** **Return to Campus Update and New Face Masks Requirement**

**Date:** July 29, 2021

This update provides important information about MC's return to campus for fall semester, as well as an update about the College's face coverings requirement.

We extend an enthusiastic welcome to employees who will be returning to campus next week! Monday, August 2, is an important milestone in this transitional process as we begin to welcome more and more students who are seeking face-to-face services. Many administrators have been working several days a week on campus since June, and a number of staff began returning in July. Starting next week, all administrators and staff will be on campus at least two days a week, and faculty will be returning August 23. **Starting October 4, the College will begin full on-site staffing. Existing approved remote work exemptions will remain in place. Please watch for additional information soon about this transition.**

This milestone on Monday occurs as many parts of the country with low vaccination rates are now grappling with the coronavirus delta variant. The Montgomery County vaccination rate is one of the highest in the nation with 69 percent of the population having at least one shot and 63 percent having both. There is a small uptick in delta variant in the county. These data underscore the message we have shared all along: vaccination is the best protection against the virus. **We continue to strongly urge employees and students to be fully vaccinated.**

This fall, MC will continue to offer students flexible course options, including in-person classes, structured remote (SRT), online, and hybrid formats. Student services will also be offered in-person and remotely.

#### **Coming to Campus – New Face Masks Requirement**

As you return next week, please keep the following in mind:

- **Effective Monday, August 2, face coverings (masks) are required for all individuals (employees, students, contractors, and guests) who are indoors, regardless of their vaccination status.** The College has reinstituted the mask requirement following new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and in consultation with MC's Return-to-Campus Advisory Committee.
- The [MC daily health assessment](#) is required before coming to campus. If you think you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or think you have been exposed to the coronavirus, stay home and consult with your healthcare provider.
- Before your first day of on-site work, **complete the online [COVID-19 training in MC Learns](#).** If you have previously completed the training, you do not need to retake it.
- Social distancing requirements are lifted, but prudence in tight spaces is advised.
- Hand sanitizer and self-service disinfecting stations are placed throughout College buildings. Please wash hands frequently.
- Access to certain break areas and food vending facilities may be temporarily restricted in your building. Please observe signs in these areas.

As always, we monitor guidance from the CDC, the state of Maryland, and Montgomery County health officials. **As conditions change, MC requirements may change as well.** Next week, the College will conduct a confidential employees survey to gauge views about vaccination requirements.

### **Improvements to Campus Buildings HVAC Systems**

While all MC buildings meet regulatory standards for healthy workspaces, the College is already working on a project to conduct studies, design, and perform upgrades or retro-commissioning for ventilation systems. Nineteen buildings across the three main campuses will be included in the project. This major infrastructure upgrade is made possible by federal funding provided to MC for making improvements in response to the coronavirus pandemic. This project will take years to complete and we will keep the MC community informed about our progress.

### **Pop-up Vaccination Sites on Campuses**

MC is collaborating with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Holy Cross Health to provide pop-up vaccination sites on all three campuses. These sites will operate at various dates and times during the fall semester, offering free vaccinations to the MC community. Please watch for details on these pop-up vaccination sites soon, and remember that a vaccination and testing site is currently open on the Rockville Campus in the South Campus Instructional Building (SB). See MC's [Return-to-Campus webpages](#) for details.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our students and the work of the College. We look forward to seeing you on campus in the coming days