



Office of the President

Friday, September 17, 2021

Dear Chargers:

Earlier this week, we shared information about how to upload vaccination records as we implement the Board of Trustees' vaccine requirement. We have additional details to share, which are covered below. Our goal is to continue our students' safe and full return to campus as we recover from the pandemic.



Vaccination Mandate Update

To prepare for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination mandate at Cypress College, students and employees may now submit their vaccination information or request an exemption through myGateway (see the next section below).

Students and employees are required to submit documentation by November 1. To be considered fully vaccinated by the deadline, the final vaccine dose must be received no later than October 18. Convenient and local vaccination resources are available at the [Health Center web pages](#), and Cypress College will be hosting two vaccination clinics to assist you in meeting this deadline, which are detailed at the end of this message.

The vaccination mandate was established by the North Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees, who voted to require COVID-19 vaccinations for all employees and for students enrolled in on-campus classes, with allowances for religious or medical exemptions as defined by law.

The policy requires that all employees, as well as students who access in-person classes or programs, be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 1. Instituting the November deadline allows time for unvaccinated employees and students to complete a two-dose vaccine regimen. The mandate recommends immediate implementation with the Pfizer-BioNTech (which has been fully FDA approved), Moderna, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines.

Consistent with applicable law, exemptions will be granted by NOCCCD Human Resources for eligible documented medical conditions as well as religious beliefs.



Vaccination Verification Process Launches

Students and employees are able to upload vaccination documents and request exemptions via myGateway. The link is available on the college's [Coronavirus web page](#), and you may click on the button below. You may also view [instructions on how to use the vaccination website](#).

[Access the Vaccination Portal](#)



Vaccination Deadline

Students have a November 1 vaccination deadline, and will not be able to register in spring on-campus courses without showing proof of being fully vaccinated or approved for an exemption. Any student taking on-campus courses who has not been fully vaccinated by November 1 will have to submit to weekly COVID-19 testing through the end of the fall semester.

[FAQ for Employees](#)

[FAQ for Students](#)

Employees received further guidance from the NOCCCD Chancellor's Office [in this memo](#).



Masking and Social Distancing

Cypress College will continue to require that everyone wear face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status following recommendations from the Orange County Health Care Agency.

Social distancing will continue to be practiced indoors, including in classes and labs, as well as our student services areas.



Vaccine Clinics

In preparation for the vaccination deadline, Cypress College has partnered with the Orange County Health Care Agency to host two on-campus vaccine clinics.

These clinics will be held in Rooms 17 and 18 of the Cypress NOCE Building next to Lot 4 and take place on:

- Monday, September 27, 2021
- Monday, October 18, 2021

Both will take place from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Those who participate will be considered to be fully vaccinated in accordance with the NOCCCD vaccination requirement and deadline. The clinic will be primarily for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, along with limited doses of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson, and Moderna for second shots.



Vaccine Town Hall

The College is working on facilitating a campus town hall in the next two weeks with local health care professionals, and District personnel to answer all your questions about vaccine safety, the NOCCCD mandate and other concerns you may have. We know this is a dynamic and even stressful time for many of you. I encourage you to reach out to me, your manager, and Executive Team with any questions you may have, and we will always do our best to answer truthfully and transparently. We care about you, your health, and the welfare of our campus community. We will get through this together.

Buen Cypress!

JoAnna Schilling, Ph.D.
President, Cypress College



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