

College of the Redwoods Mandates Testing for All Unvaccinated Staff

August 5, 2021



To curtail the spread of the virus and protect the long-term health of staff, faculty, students and local community College of the Redwoods will require all on campus and onsite faculty, staff, managers, administrators, residence hall students and student athletes to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing effective August 19, 2021.

On-campus or onsite faculty who do not wish to comply with providing proof of COVID-19 vaccination status or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing may work with their supervisors to adjusting their teaching schedule so that it is fully online.

Additionally, effective August 6, 2021 all vaccinated and unvaccinated employees and students will be required to wear a face covering in any indoor space on campus and outdoors in groups larger than four people. Students who do not wish to wear a face coving will have access to all online classes and services but face-to-face classes and services will be off-limits.

At the Board of Trustees workshop on August 21st, CR's President, Dr. Keith Flamer will also ask the Board to consider a resolution to require FDA approved COVID-19 vaccinations for students, faculty, staff, and administrators who work or attend classes on-site in the District should it become clear that this is necessary to protect the community and keep the college and the economy open.

"If we do move to mandate vaccines," says Flamer, "we will provide reasonable accommodation for employees who want to decline to be vaccinated due to qualified disabilities under the American with Disabilities (ADA) or Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) or due to an established sincerely held religious belief, provided that the requested accommodation does not create an undue hardship on the College or pose a direct threat to the health and/or safety of others."

If you plan to attend classes in-person at College of the Redwoods this fall, the College strongly recommends that you be fully vaccinated at least two weeks before the semester begins.

Federal, state and local health authorities have stated that the highly infectious Delta variant is responsible for the ongoing surge of COVID-19 and is considered to be as much as eight times more infectious than the original virus. The science shows that getting vaccinated is still the most effective way to protect yourself and your community from COVID-19.