

Dutchess Community College COVID Guidance 2022-2023

I. Mandatory Vaccination for Students and Vaccination Management System

In compliance with the SUNY vaccination mandate, Dutchess Community College requires all students who attend in-person classes or utilize any on-campus services to be fully vaccinated. Students are to upload a copy of their vaccination card [showing their booster shot on the SUNY Vax link](#).

DCC has integrated the vaccination verification into the course registration process and the COVID testing and compliance program. Students should not register for on-campus classes if they are unwilling to be vaccinated.

Exemptions: Students may apply for a waiver from the vaccination requirement based on the following allowable exemptions. Exemption requests for the semester must be made not less than five business days prior to the start of classes.

- [Medical Exemption](#). A student may request exemption from the vaccine requirement with a certification from a duly licensed healthcare provider. DCC will provide reasonable accommodations to those students whose medical condition(s) makes the COVID vaccination inadvisable so long as the failure to be vaccinated does not prevent the student from otherwise fulfilling the programmatic or curricular requirements of their academic program.
- [Religious Exemption](#). A student may request exemption from the vaccine requirement if they hold genuine and sincere religious beliefs that run contrary to the practice of COVID immunization. Students must submit a completed religious exemption form and a written statement that explains how receiving the COVID vaccination conflicts with their religious beliefs or practices. The statement must also explain how not receiving the vaccination will not prevent them from completing the programmatic or curricular requirements of their academic programs. General philosophical or moral objections to the COVID vaccine will not suffice as a basis for a religious exemption.

Students taking non-credit classes may also apply for a waiver from the vaccination requirement. [Non-credit medical exemption](#) and [non-credit religious exemption](#) requests must meet the same requirements as those for credit classes.

All students are strongly encouraged to stay up to date on their vaccinations as defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, including obtaining any booster authorized by the FDA and recommended by the CDC for their age group. While not required at this time, SUNY reserves the authority to impose a requirement for any booster at any time as a result of changes in local conditions or as a result of requirements imposed by federal, state or local authorities.

II. Masks

Due to the reduction of COVID cases on campus and the community, the College has suspended its indoor mask requirement at all College locations for all students, faculty, staff and visitors. The following guidelines are designed to add clarity to the practice:

- Masks are no longer required to be worn at any DCC location – this applies to all areas of campus, including residence halls, instructional spaces and offices.
- All members of the College community will respect an individual's decision to wear or not wear a mask.
- Members of the College community *may not require that someone wears a mask* in their workspace or ask another individual to prove their vaccination status.
- Masks will continue to be available in building lobbies and from Campus Safety & Security.
- Students participating in clinicals or other off-campus placements must continue to comply with specific regulations or requirements in place at that site.

There are specific instances on campus when masks must be worn:

- Regardless of your vaccination status, if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask and test 5 days after exposure-
- If you have tested positive for COVID, you must continue to wear a mask for five days following your initial five-day isolation period.

Note: The COVID pandemic situation remains fluid. Therefore, our policies and practices relating to COVID are subject to change at any time, depending on the public health conditions of our immediate area and external guidance. If any element of our new mask practice changes due to an increase in cases in the community or on campus, it will be clearly communicated.

III. Daily Health Screening

Although daily health screenings are no longer required for vaccinated individuals, DCC encourages all students, faculty and staff to perform [daily self-health assessments](#) for infectious illnesses, including COVID, before coming to campus.

IV. COVID Testing

Mandatory surveillance testing is no longer required for commuter and residence hall students. Anyone who has had contact with a positive COVID case or is experiencing any symptoms should perform a COVID test. Rapid COVID tests are available in the Greenspan dining room during testing hours. Take home tests are also available at Campus Security & Safety, the Health Office, Human Resources and at the main offices at DCC @ HVRA, DCC @ FPC and DCC @ Fishkill.

Any faculty, staff or student who receives a positive COVID test result either from a home rapid test or an off-campus lab must immediately isolate and email covidstatus@sunydutchess.edu with their test results. The [Dutchess County COVID](#) website has further instructions for reporting home tests. Everyone is expected to comply with the guidelines for quarantine and/or isolation as shown on the County Department of Behavioral and Community site.

DCC may impose more frequent testing of students and employees, regardless of vaccination status, if conditions warrant additional measures.

V. DCC ID Cards

All College community members must obtain and wear a DCC ID whenever they are on campus or at an extension site. ID cards are issued in the Campus Security and Safety Office, located in the Orcutt Student Services building, and in DCC @ Fishkill and DCC @ the Partnership.

VI. Residence Halls, Quarantine and Isolation Space

All students living in the residence hall on campus must be fully vaccinated and comply with the exemption requirements outlined in New York State Public Health Law Section 2165. Students must have completed the vaccination process before moving into the residence hall.

Any student who tests positive or needs to be quarantined must return home until they have completed their quarantine/isolation period. DCC will continue to follow CDC guidance for individuals that are exposed to COVID-19.

VII. Athletics

All student-athletes must be fully vaccinated or have an approved medical or religious exemption before the start of practices for the season. DCC will comply with all NJCAA, CUNY AND SUNY COVID regulations and protocols.

VIII. Mandatory Pause Requirements

The N.Y.S. requirements for a mandatory pause are no longer in effect. SUNY retains the authority to pause campus activities in cases of increased community transmission.

IX. Cleaning Protocols

Even though the N.Y.S. mandatory cleaning and disinfection protocols are no longer in effect, DCC will continue to clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as common areas and shared workstations, at least once a day.

X. Ventilation and Air Filtration

DCC has increased outdoor airflow and ventilation rates in indoor settings to the extent compatible with individual comfort and safety, and in accordance with building codes and standards. In indoor areas where the air is recirculated, DCC has installed higher-rated filters in the filter rack and air handlers within HVAC systems so long as the system can perform to the level of heating and cooling that it was able to provide before the COVID public health emergency.

XI. College in High School

High school students must follow the health and safety guidelines and protocols of the location at which they receive instruction. If the course is delivered at their high school, they must follow the local school district guidelines. If a student takes a course on campus, they must follow the DCC campus guidelines.

XII. Visitors

DCC welcomes visitors to campus for approved activities, all indoor spaces will be prioritized for courses and student use. Visitors are broadly defined as those who are not employees, credit students or non-credit students.

Visitors must adhere to the College's [self-screening requirements](#) and comply with campus health and safety protocols. If you show symptoms of infectious illness, please stay at home and/or seek medical care. DCC highly recommends all visitors be fully vaccinated. Visitors who are not vaccinated are strongly encouraged to be masked when inside campus buildings.

XIII. Travel

DCC will follow current NYSDOH guidance on testing, vaccination and quarantine requirements related to travel.

XIV. Campus Compliance

Guidance Enforcement of the COVID guidance will be handled through the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability for students and the Office of Human Resources for employees.