

Press Release

August 26, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kai Stearns, 714-808-4829 or kstearns@nocccd.edu

NOCCCD Board of Trustees Mandates COVID-19 Vaccinations for Employees and Students

Anaheim, Calif. – At its August 24, 2021 meeting, after months of extensive discussion and research, the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD) Board of Trustees approved a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for employees and students who attend classes on campus. Students who do not wish to get the vaccine have the option to attend classes online. NOCCCD offers approximately 75% of its fall courses online.

All NOCCCD employees and students accessing District and college facilities (including in-person classes, student support services, or any other indoor on-campus activity) will need to provide evidence of full vaccination status by November 1, 2021. Consistent with applicable law, exemptions will be granted by District Human Resources for eligible documented medical conditions as well as religious beliefs. The District will continue to require that everyone wear face coverings indoor regardless of vaccination status following recommendations from the Orange County Public Health department.

The policy requires that all employees, as well as students who accesses in-person classes or programs, be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 1, 2021. 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.

“The District prioritizes the health and safety of its employees, students and the community,” said Board of Trustees President Barbara Dunsheath. “The Delta variant is proving to be highly contagious and vaccines are still the best way to keep our communities safe. The Board encourages all employees and students to get vaccinated as soon as possible.”

Locally and statewide, institutions of higher learning have implemented coronavirus vaccine mandates. The California Community Colleges has strongly recommended a vaccine mandate to help safeguard student/employee health and safety, and Governor Gavin Newsom’s office has ordered COVID-19 vaccination for all state employees.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Delta variant “causes more infections and spreads faster than earlier forms of the virus that causes COVID-19. It might cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated people.” The CDC continues to emphasize vaccines offer strong protection against serious illness or death.

NOCCCD will be sharing more information, including the method that will be used to gather and track vaccination status, details about testing procedures, and the processes to request medical or religious accommodations, very soon. The NOCCCD COVID-19 webpage (www.nocccd.edu/covid19) will be updated with new information as details emerge.

NOCCCD Background

Two of the state’s premier colleges and most extensive continuing education program combine to provide the quality educational programming of the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD). Nearly 78,000 students enroll annually at Cypress College, Fullerton College, and North Orange Continuing Education. College students are able to shape their futures in programs leading to associate degrees, vocational certificates, and transfer opportunities. Life-long learning also is possible in continuing education programs that range from high school completion and basic skills mastery through an array of vocational training and self-development courses. The NOCCCD campuses serve an area of over one million diverse people – each pursuing their own, unique ambitions.