



Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 316

To: Virginia Tech Faculty, Staff, and Students
From: Timothy D. Sands
Date: August 2, 2021
Subject: COVID Vaccination and Testing Requirements: 2021-22 Academic Year

As Virginia Tech begins the 2021-22 Academic Year, we are as committed as ever to the health and wellness of our university community. Our goal remains an in-person fall semester that offers the fullest possible experience while staying flexible with our policies and operations.

Our operating policies and operations are informed by public health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and our own public health experts and COVID modeling team. Our expectation is that all faculty, staff, and students will consistently adhere to the university's operating policies and procedures. Considering the changing public health needs and the continued emergence of COVID variants, additional measures are needed to safeguard the health of students, faculty, and staff.

With recently updated public health guidance due to the increasing spread of highly transmissible COVID variants, Virginia Tech has a responsibility to take appropriate measures to safeguard the health of students, faculty, and staff.

The purpose of this President's Policy Memorandum is to outline the vaccination and testing program for faculty, staff, and students.

1. As communicated on June 8, 2021, COVID-19 vaccinations are required for all students who do not receive an exemption. Students must upload their vaccination cards by August 6, 2021. A comprehensive communication plan was put in motion this summer to ensure that students received the vaccine information and have been reminded of the consequences for failure to upload their vaccination cards, including dis-enrollment.
2. The university strongly encourages employees to be vaccinated and to upload their vaccination card. If conditions change within the Virginia Tech community or the health districts, the university may adjust the policy and require employees to be vaccinated.

3. Any university faculty, staff, or student located in Blacksburg, Roanoke or the DC/metro area who is not fully vaccinated will be required to participate in a surveillance testing program, which includes mandatory testing at an initial frequency of at least once a week. Additionally, any faculty, staff, or student not fully vaccinated will be required to wear a face covering when in university-owned or university-leased facilities.
 - a. For faculty and staff, these requirements are a condition of employment. Any employee who is unvaccinated and refuses to participate in the mandatory testing program and/or wear a face covering will be subject to applicable employment policies.
 - b. For students, these requirements are a condition to be part of the university community and will impact the ability to live, learn, and work in any university-owned or -leased facility. Any student who is unvaccinated and refuses to participate in the mandatory testing program and/or wear a face covering may be excluded from campus or participation in in-person activities until there is a demonstrated, sustained, and continued reduction in transmission of COVID. Such students will be subject to the policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
 - c. Students, faculty, and staff may be required to participate in additional infectious disease prevention measures if warranted.

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