



Important Notice: Updates to Covid Policies and Guidelines

8/20/2021

Dear Colleagues,

Due to the increased transmissibility of the Covid-19 Delta variant, the CDC recently released guidance recommending all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks in public indoor settings. In accordance with this guidance, and in an effort to prevent transmission of the virus to campus community members who may have unvaccinated minors or immunocompromised individuals in their households, Five Towns College will reinstitute a mandatory mask policy and will adjust its vaccination/testing protocols as set forth below, **effective Monday, August 23**.

Starting Monday, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must:

- Wear a face mask at all times when indoors on campus
- Wear a face mask outdoors when on campus and when unable to maintain proper social distancing (for example, when attending a crowded outdoor gathering or athletic event)

The only exception to the mask policy will be for vaccinated individuals when working in a private office or workspace where social distancing is able to be maintained, or when seating in a dining hall and actually eating.

In preparation for the start of classes on Wednesday, September 1, all students will be required to submit either proof of full vaccination or a negative Covid test taken within 7 days prior to the start of classes. Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and who is unable to secure a test in time for the start of classes can and must be tested at the on-campus testing clinic to be held on September 1 in the Downbeat. Anyone who has not been tested or submitted proof of vaccination past September 1 will not be permitted on campus until the required documentation has been submitted. All test results and proof of vaccination should be submitted electronically to healthrecords@ftc.edu.

Proof of vaccination remains mandatory for all faculty and staff who will be on campus during the fall semester. Medical and religious exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Proof of vaccination is also required for resident students. Please note, if you are planning on living in the residence halls, you will not be allowed to move into your room until your proof of vaccination has been received.

Commuter students are not currently required to submit proof of vaccination to be on campus or to attend classes. However, the various program faculty committees have determined that students participating in the following activities are subject to the following requirements:

- All students athletes must submit proof of vaccination prior to participation in any team activities
- Students participating in extracurricular film and audio crews (including those film projects that are for school by other students) are required to submit proof of vaccination

- All students involved in theatre productions are required to submit proof of vaccination. If a medical exemption is requested and granted, students must provide a negative Covid test at the beginning of auditions, at the midpoint of rehearsals, and a week before the opening of the show.
- All students participating in music ensembles must submit proof of vaccination

The College hereby advises all unvaccinated students that, should the current Emergency Use Authorization for the Covid vaccines be replaced by full FDA approval, the College will institute a mandatory vaccination policy for all members of the campus community. Anyone who has not started the vaccination process at the time of full FDA approval will have 14 days to submit proof that they have begun the process by either submitting proof of a first dose of the vaccine or confirmation of a scheduled appointment to receive their first dose. Religious exemptions will only be granted to students who already have a religious exemption on file from when they first applied and were accepted by the college. Medical exemptions will only be granted for individuals who can provide documentation from their physician outlining an underlying medical issue that prevents them from receiving the vaccine. **If you are unvaccinated and are unwilling to become vaccinated even with full FDA approval of the vaccination, the College strongly urges you consider withdrawing or applying for a Leave of Absence now. Should you begin classes, you do so with the understanding that the College may change its vaccination policy during the term. The College will not issue any tuition adjustments or refunds as result of a refusal or unwillingness to comply with a future mandatory vaccination policy for fully approved vaccines. Your decision to start classes constitutes acceptance of this provision.**

For the fall semester, all individuals coming to campus must show either a green or blue clearance screen on the FTC app upon entry to the building. Individuals who have submitted proof of vaccination will have access to the FTC vaccine pass, which will provide you with a blue clearance screen. Those with the blue screen must show their pass to the public safety officer at the school entrance, but will not be subject to any further Covid screening upon entry. Unvaccinated individuals must take the Covid-19 Daily Survey on the app, which will produce a green clearance screen. Individuals with the green screen must show their pass to the public safety officer at the school entrance and must also pass a temperature scan. After the conclusion of the testing clinic on September 1, any unvaccinated individual who was not tested at the clinic or who has not submitted proof of a negative test will not receive the green clearance screen until their test results are sent to healthrecords@ftc.edu.

If you do not yet have the FTC app on your mobile device, it is available for free on the Apple App Store or on Google Play by searching "Five Towns College."

If you have already been vaccinated, please remember to submit a copy of your completed vaccination card or your New York State Excelsior Pass to healthrecords@ftc.edu.

Our goal is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for every member of the Five Towns College community. We thank you for your cooperation in complying with these important health and safety policies and guidelines.

Sincerely,

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