



imagine the possibilities

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Bunker Hill Community College Students, Faculty and Staff
Fr: Pam Y. Eddinger, PhD
President
Subject: Attached Press Release from the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges – Vaccination Advisory for Spring 2022
Date: September 20, 2021

Please find attached a press release from the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges. The subject of the press release:

Massachusetts Community Colleges Announce Vaccine Requirement

Students, faculty, and staff at the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges must be fully vaccinated beginning in January 2022

Please note that further details about this requirement will be forthcoming.

CHARLESTOWN CAMPUS

250 New Rutherford Avenue • Boston, Massachusetts 02129-2925
Phone: 617-228-2000 TTY: 617-242-2365

CHELSEA CAMPUS

70 Everett Avenue • Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150-2917
Phone: 617-228-2101 TTY: 617-884-3293

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Chinatown • East Boston • Everett • Malden • South End

bhcc.edu



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
9/20/21

CONTACT: Sarah Yunits
857-990-3334 | yunitss@macc.mass.edu

Massachusetts Community Colleges Announce Vaccine Requirement
Students, faculty, and staff at the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges must be fully vaccinated beginning in January 2022

BOSTON – The Presidents of the Massachusetts community colleges announced today that students, faculty, and staff at the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges must be fully vaccinated by January 2022.

“During the last eighteen months, the Massachusetts Community Colleges have prioritized the health and safety of our communities while also recognizing that many of our students have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic” the Presidents said in a statement shared with their campuses. “While a significant number of students, faculty, and staff are already vaccinated or are in the process of becoming vaccinated, the fifteen colleges are seeking to increase the health and safety of the learning and working environment in light of the ongoing public health concerns and current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Massachusetts Community Colleges are committed to ensuring vaccination status is not a barrier to students and will continue offering a range of virtual learning opportunities and services.”

The announcement comes amid a rise in the number of new cases of COVID-19 across the Commonwealth, the increased access and availability of vaccines, the Food & Drug Administration's full and pending approval of available vaccines, and CDC guidance that the COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be extremely safe and highly effective at preventing infection, severe disease, hospitalization, and death, the requirement is aimed at ensuring the safest learning and working environment possible for the more than 135,000 students served by the community colleges each year.

Students who seek to register for courses that do not include any in-person component, and who do not plan to come on campus for any reason for the Spring 2022 semester, will not be required to provide documentation of vaccination. All employees will be required to be vaccinated.

The community colleges remain the most affordable higher education opportunity in Massachusetts and also provide flexible options for students. They also serve as critical local and statewide economic

engines, training and educating the workforce through credit and noncredit offerings. At a time when many workers will have to be retrained, re-skilled, and further educated to find their way back into this new economy, the community colleges offer training in needed healthcare professions, IT and cyber security jobs, and first responder roles like EMTs, firefighters, and police officers, among others.

##

The 15 Massachusetts Community Colleges offer unique opportunities for the local communities they are a part of. Each college provides open access to high quality and affordable academic programs. The Massachusetts Community Colleges are Bunker Hill, Bristol, Cape Cod, Berkshire, Greenfield, Holyoke, Massasoit, MassBay, Middlesex, Mount Wachusett, North Shore, Northern Essex, Quinsigamond, Roxbury, and Springfield Technical.