

From: [Greg Gillespie](#)
Subject: Face Coverings - VCCCD COVID-19 Prevention Program
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:00:03 AM

Dear VCCCD Colleagues,

The start of Fall Semester 2021 classes is only a month away. We are looking forward to welcoming a greater number of students at our campuses this year! Classes with an in-person component currently comprise between 35 to 50% of the fall schedule. Student services areas are beginning to have in-person appointments. All employees have returned or are in the process of returning to on-site work. Please take time to review the [VCCCD COVID-19 Prevention Program](#) document. Currently, our health and safety protocols allows for and supports vaccination verified and unverified employees and students to be on-site. This provides the opportunity for the broadest range of our community members access to in-person, hybrid, and online instruction and support services. Face coverings are required for vaccination unverified employees and students and voluntary for those who are vaccination verified at all VCCCD locations.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still occurring and increasing in many areas. Over 607,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the United States. The vaccinations are helping to address this public health emergency. Unvaccinated individuals represent 99% of recent COVID-19 hospitalizations. [Ventura County Recovers](#) has a dashboard showing relevant local COVID-19 information including vaccination rates.

There has been some concern expressed about how wearing a face covering and an identification bracelet might be interpreted by some people on our campuses and in our offices. To me, the wearing of face coverings is a sign of the concern for the well-being of others. As the virus situation evolves, especially now with the rapid increase of the highly contagious Delta variant, the continued implementation of protocols to protect the health of everyone at our locations remains paramount. We will continue to be called upon to take actions to protect one another until the United States and the world reach vaccination and natural immunity levels high enough for herd immunity which will also reduce the propagation of new variants. The screening process and use of colored bracelets are being used to indicate verified or unverified vaccination status in order to insure the required use of face coverings. This helps protect the health of everyone on-site and to support community public health efforts.

There are a number of reasons why people may be wearing masks. Not everyone CAN get vaccinated for a number of reasons. Some people are not ready to get vaccinated. Some of our colleagues and students are themselves immune compromised, or have family members who are, and they can still get sick even if they are fully vaccinated, or some people want additional protection - they too may be wearing masks. Please continue to show concern for each other and acceptance of actions taken to adapt to these extraordinary times and circumstances.

The measures we are taking regarding COVID-19 mitigation are about Public Health and the concern for the members of our educational community and their families - nothing more and nothing less. Anyone who feels they are being treated differently due to their verification status should contact their supervisor or Human Resources.

As has occurred throughout the pandemic, adjustments will occur as conditions warrant. All employees and students may be required to wear masks on-site should Public Health orders change or conditions at one or more of our locations warrant a change. We are also continuing the discussion and consideration of mandating COVID-19 vaccination.

Thank you,

Greg

GREG GILLESPIE, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR
VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
761 East Daily Drive | Suite 200 | Camarillo, CA 93010 | (805) 652-5501
www.vcccd.edu | www.moorparkcollege.edu | www.oxnardcollege.edu | www.venturacollege.edu

