

Dutchess Community College COVID-19 Guidance

Effective Fall Semester 2023

The COVID situation has changed significantly over the last several years. As of July 2023, approximately 77.9% of 18–25-year-olds and 80.1% of 26–34-year-olds have completed their primary series vaccinations in New York State. Higher vaccination rates, natural immunity, lower rates of infection, and generally less severe variants have led to increased relaxation of mandates on the city, state, and national level. Nationally, the public health emergency is ending.

This revised guidance reflects current conditions and is grounded in science to maximize the well-being of the community. These protocols are subject to change as COVID conditions evolve. In addition, nothing herein limits the authority of the campus to impose additional COVID restrictions within our current authority. DCC will continue to comply with any additional requirements imposed by the State, SUNY, and local jurisdictions as appropriate.

I. VACCINE AND BOOSTER POLICY

- a. All students are strongly encouraged to stay up to date on their initial course of vaccinations and boosters consistent with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. While vaccines are not required at this time as a condition of enrollment, DCC along with SUNY reserves the authority to change this policy at any time because of changes in local conditions or due to requirements imposed by Federal, State or local authorities.
- b. Students enrolled in any program or course or who are participating in a clinical or internship held at a third-party location must continue to comply with all health and safety guidelines, including any vaccination or testing protocols that are in place at the third-party location. Certain employees, students, and volunteers at healthcare facilities, including SUNY healthcare facilities and hospitals, may be subject to mandatory COVID-19 vaccination pursuant to relevant regulations and policies.
- c. Students are encouraged to upload their COVID vaccine status in the [SUNY verification system](#).

II. MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING

- a. DCC will continue to monitor local conditions and determine if or when mask mandates are required. Such assessment will include an evaluation of CDC guidance and any metrics that exist at that time. DCC reserves the right to maintain a mask requirement in any venue or with any specific population on campus at our sole discretion.
- b. All students, faculty, and staff need to follow the masking requirements for activities or instruction delivered at a third-party location.

III. TESTING

- c. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin. Rapid test kits are available in the Health Office, the Office of Campus Safety & Security and Human Resources.

VI. QUARANTINE & ISOLATION

- a. Residence hall students who test positive for COVID are to isolate at home. Students who must remain in their room should isolate to the extent possible just as they would with the flu, strep throat, and other illnesses. Students should be encouraged to engage in protective measures per CDC recommendations to prevent the spread of illnesses to the greatest extent possible.
- b. DCC continues to strongly recommend that affiliates stay home if they feel unwell and isolate according to CDC guidelines if they test positive for COVID-19.

VII. PIVOT TO REMOTE INSTRUCTION OR ACTIVITY

- a. DCC will continue to monitor local conditions and if required will obtain approval from SUNY System Administration to change to a virtual or remote format for academic instruction, delay the start of the semester, modify spring break, or delay or change the format of commencement activities.

VIII. COMPLIANCE

- a. Any incidents of non-compliance with any SUNY or campus protocols will be handled through the Student Conduct process outlined in the Student Code of Conduct for students and Human Resources for employees.