



PALO VERDE COLLEGE

WHERE KNOWLEDGE TAKES ROOT AND OPPORTUNITY GROWS

July 7, 2021

PVC-Everyone: PVC-Board (VIA EMAIL)

Re: Full Reopening of Palo Verde Community College District

Colleagues:

On June 15, 2021, Governor Newsom announced that California has fully reopened. In addition, on June 17, 2021, the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board voted to adopt revised COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards that represent the state's latest COVID-19 public health order. Governor Gavin Newsom further signed an executive order enabling CalOSHA's revisions to take effect immediately. As a result, Palo Verde Community College District is authorized to resume full-time in-person instruction so long as we remain in compliance with the state's latest COVID-19 public health order, currently the [CalOSHA Order](#).

The California Department of Public Health has mandated that masks are not required indoors for fully vaccinated individuals. Also, individuals are not required to wear face coverings when outdoors regardless of vaccination status except for certain at-risk persons. However, the District will continue to enforce face coverings in certain situations including outbreaks and large-gathering locations. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important in higher risk settings to prevent transmission to persons with higher risk of infection, for example, unvaccinated or immunocompromised persons, persons with prolonged cumulative exposures, or persons whose vaccination status is unknown.

Although people who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask correctly to protect others as well as themselves, the following individuals are exempt from wearing masks provided they submit proper verification to Human Resources:

- Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance. (Medical certification will be required)
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication. (Medical certification will be required)
- Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

California public health officials continue to strongly recommend COVID-19 vaccinations for all residents, including eligible students, faculty, and staff. Although at this time vaccination is not a requirement, the District will follow the CalOSHA Order as required with respect to vaccination status. However, no person shall be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry on campus. People who are not fully vaccinated should continue to avoid large gatherings, but if they choose to attend, they should wear well-fitting masks that cover the mouth and nose, maintain physical distancing, and practice good hand hygiene.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT / PRESIDENT

ONE COLLEGE DRIVE BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA 92225 | WWW.PALOVERDE.EDU | 760-921-5499

With this notice, the District will discontinue the use of the Appian Campus Pass, which is no longer required under the current health order, and will remove the mask mandate in accordance with the CalOSHA order for all employees who provide evidence of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The employer is required to record the vaccination status for any employee not wearing a face covering indoors and this record must be kept confidential. Accordingly, employees who wish to remove the mask mandate for themselves must provide proof of vaccination (vaccine card, image of vaccine card, or healthcare document showing vaccination status) to Human Resources who will maintain the record in a confidential file along with TB certifications and other confidential medical records.

An employee has the right to decline to state if they are vaccinated or not. In that case, the employer must treat the employee as unvaccinated, and face coverings will continue to be required indoors and in vehicles for unvaccinated employees with the following exceptions:

- When alone in a room or vehicle
- When eating or drinking
- When an accommodation is required
- When job duties make a face covering infeasible or create a hazard

The District has no doubt that all parties are concerned for the health, safety, and wellbeing of our colleagues, students, and community members. Therefore, the District will reopen its campuses to faculty, staff, students, and visitors in accordance with the CalOSHA guidelines and all applicable MOUs with our bargaining units. As of June 30, 2021, the MOU with CSEA allowing teleworking has sunset and all classified employees and managers are expected to return to campus and to comply with the safe reopening plan unless medical or other accommodations are made in advance. Faculty are scheduled to return according to a separate MOU that is attached to this notice.

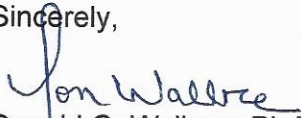
The District is committed not only to the safety, but also the fair and equal treatment of all students, faculty, and staff. The District will continue to maintain and implement an effective written COVID-19 Prevention Program that includes identifying and evaluating exposures to COVID-19 health hazards; implementing effective policies and procedures to correct unsafe and unhealthy conditions; and allowing adequate time for handwashing and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects. The District is in the process of updating its COVID-19 Safe Reopening plan, and once it has been updated and reviewed by the committee, the updated plan will be emailed out as well as posted to the District website.

Regarding face-to-face instruction, based on the Governor's announcement, no physical distancing will be required after June 15, 2021 between students who are fully vaccinated. Furthermore, fully vaccinated individuals who have had a COVID-19 exposure do not need to quarantine if they are asymptomatic. On the other hand, masks are still required for unvaccinated individuals inside public settings, including classrooms and hallways, etc., which allows for full classroom capacity. As faculty and students return to campus this fall, students will be instructed to wear a mask indoors unless they are fully vaccinated. As non-employees, students do not fall under the CalOSHA Order and will not be required to provide evidence of vaccination.

Please recognize that this is a constantly evolving situation and will be re-evaluated as needed in consultation with state and local health officials. In the meantime, the District urges everyone to continue to practice at least daily self-health evaluations and make wise decisions when in contact with students, faculty, and the community.

Thank you for all you are doing to continue serving the community safely as we welcome more students back to our campuses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald G. Wallace, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President