

To: Montgomery College Employees, Supervisors, and Onsite Contractors
From: A. Chevelle Glymph, Director, Public Health & Environmental Safety
Subject: COVID-19 Update
Date: October 27, 2022

Good afternoon, Raptor community! I am writing to share updates to the College's COVID-19 protocols that will go into effect starting on January 1, 2023.

At the start of the fall semester, out of an abundance of caution, the College made minimal changes to its COVID-19 protocols to avoid a surge in new cases as we returned to campus. I am pleased to report that we have not seen an uptick in cases at the College through the first months of the semester. Across Montgomery County, the COVID-19 levels in the community remain low. We also committed to reassess our protocols during the first week of October. After careful consideration, discussions with our unions and College Council, and in accordance with revised federal and local guidance, the following changes will become effective on January 1, 2023:

- **Masks:** Wearing a mask will become optional in all College facilities. This includes classrooms, laboratories, learning centers, and other instructional spaces. Masking is required for individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who are returning to campus from isolation after testing positive for COVID-19.
- **Vaccination:** Vaccination will not be required for students, employees, contractors, and visitors to be present on campus. However, students and employees participating in clinicals, externships, internships or other programs at off-campus locations are subject to the requirements of the off-campus site and may be required to provide proof of vaccination.

As we shared, your input regarding how we can enhance education efforts for healthy practices at the College is important and we have been listening to your responses. To continue to maintain a safe and healthy College community, we ask that everyone remember the following practices that limit the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses:

- Masks are a significant defense against the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses and wearing a KN95 mask while indoors is recommended for added protection.
- We encourage those who are more comfortable wearing a mask to continue to do so. Please respect an individual's personal choice.

- Masks continue to be available at Public Safety offices, Raptor Central locations, and by orders placed by departments through the Office of Facilities TMA service desk.
- All members of the College community are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and receive boosters when eligible.
- Everyone should take the daily health assessment, stay home if you are feeling sick, and utilize hand sanitizer and wipes.
- Montgomery County Health Department vaccination and testing locations continue to operate on the Germantown Campus in the Bioscience Education Center Building and the Rockville Campus in the Counseling and Advising Building. All campus vaccination and testing sites are open to students, employees, and the general public. Please check the [schedule](#) prior to going.
- The Montgomery County Health Department also offers additional testing and vaccination sites in Silver Spring and across the county. Please [check](#) to identify a testing and vaccination site nearest you.
- We strongly encourage all who are eligible to get the flu vaccine, as we are beginning cold and flu season.

The College will continue to monitor current conditions and guidance. As COVID-19 conditions evolve and change, the College may adjust protocols and directives accordingly. Stay updated on current information via the [COVID health guidance webpage](#) and direct your questions to PublicHealth@montgomerycollege.edu.

Again, thank you for your efforts to continue to do your part in keeping us all safe.

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy.