

From the desk of Barbara Chaput, Executive Director Human Resources/Payroll

Good afternoon –

May 29 marked a new era with the lifting of all the Commonwealth's COVID-19 related mitigation measures. As we transition into a new normal and begin to operate in a less restrictive environment, we will remain vigilant and continue to monitor available public health data, while making decisions that keep our community safe and progressing to a place of more togetherness.

More detailed communication will follow later this month sharing how MCLA will adapt to post-pandemic operations with a full return to the classroom and residence halls for the fall 2021 semester. This communication is to address the most pressing issues impacting employees and offer some reminders.

Campus Mask Protocol Lifted

In step with the Baker Administration's lifting of all COVID-19 restrictions in the Commonwealth, effective immediately, MCLA's mask requirements in all campus settings are removed. We encourage all unvaccinated employees to follow the public health advisory issued by the MA DPH on May 29 that "advises all unvaccinated residents to continue to wear masks in indoor settings when they can't socially distance". Detailed information on the mask requirements that still exist in certain locations statewide can be found [here](#).

Each of us feels differently about mask wearing; some of us are hesitant to not wear one, some are jubilant to discard masks, and others are in the middle depending upon the situation. Please be kind to one another as we navigate this new normal.

Employee Vaccination Survey

Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response to the survey so far. To date, we have 208 responses, with 93% of respondents fully vaccinated!

If you have not done so already, please take a few moments to complete the following anonymous, three-question survey to help us gauge further progress toward herd immunity for our employee base, as well as inform PPE, testing, and other supply purchases. This significantly aids our summer planning work for the upcoming semester, and a similar survey has already proven beneficial to fellow campuses in the State University system.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCLA_Employee_COVID-19_Vaccine_Survey

Please understand that it is our expectation that ALL MCLA employees will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to support our collective effort to keep our campus community as safe as possible.

June 8 Vaccine Clinic

In partnership with Curative Medical Associates, a COVID-19 vaccination clinic utilizing the Pfizer-BioNTECH vaccine will be hosted on campus:

Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.
Location: Church Street Center, Social Room
Registration: <http://cur.tv/mcla> or by call 888-702-9042.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been approved for emergency use in those ages 12 and under. For a minor to be vaccinated, a guardian must either be present at the clinic or complete an electronic consent form.

The vaccination clinic is free of charge and open to the public. Register for a vaccine appointment online at <http://cur.tv/mcla> or by calling 888-702-9042.

Student Vaccination Requirement

MCLA will require undergraduate and graduate students who are attending in-person classes, conducting research on campus, living in residence halls, and participating in college sponsored activities to become fully vaccinated prior to the start of the academic year in September 2021. Medical and religious exemptions with the proper accompanying documentation will be reviewed accordingly. Students must submit a photo image/copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, with name, DOB, and MCLA A# to Health Services at HealthServices@mcla.edu by **August 1, 2021**.

Thank You:

For those of you returning to campus this week, welcome back! We know that the transition back to campus may feel strange and pose new challenges. Please let me know if you have any questions about support you need as we navigate this new chapter and remember that counselors are available through our Employee Assistance Program to help with the anxiety that these changes can bring. Their free and confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) counseling line is open 27/7/365 at 800-252-4555.

Again, additional detailed information about fall planning and a full return to campus is forthcoming. As always, the health and safety of the MCLA community is at the forefront of our planning, and we thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Thank you,
Barb

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