

*****NMC UPDATE 07/15/2021—RE: Reporting Vaccination Status & Masking Requirements*****

Dear NMC Students, Faculty and Staff,

VACCINATION STATUS REPORTING MANDATORY BY MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021.

Presently, NMC is not mandating students, faculty and staff be fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine.

However, it is **required for all students to report their vaccination status**. Please upload your COVID-19 vaccination record or declination form in CastleBranch by **Monday, August 2nd**. DNP students upload your COVID-19 vaccination record or declination form in Typhon. If your program does not require a CastleBranch or Typhon account, please disregard. Call or email Campus Health at 402-354-7211 or campushealth@methodistcollege.edu with questions or if you need assistance. Faculty and staff are required to report vaccination status to Employee Health.

We know summer is flying by and finding time to do one more thing may be challenging. **Students—be looking out for fun incentives and encouragements to get your vaccination status in!** All students who have already reported will be automatically be entered into the drawings.

FULLY VACCINATED—MASKS NOT REQUIRED ON CAMPUS.

Effective immediately for students, faculty, staff and campus visitors, if you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you are not required to wear a mask or practice social distancing on campus. However, if you would feel more comfortable wearing a face covering on campus, please continue to do so. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends all individuals regardless of vaccination status should continue to wear masks, especially as a protection against the highly contagious delta variant.

Fully vaccinated individuals that encounter an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine, as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Fully vaccinated individuals are eligible to participate in Study Abroad programs.

NOTE: Methodist Health System and other clinical and fieldwork sites may require you to wear mask and social distance. Please refer to the site-specific policies. Masks are required in the Campus Health clinic.

COVID-19 VACCINE DECLINATION

A COVID-19 vaccine declination form is available in CastleBranch or from Campus Health. Medical requests will be considered for health-related reasons or strongly held religious or personal convictions due to the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) status of the vaccines. Faculty and staff should contact Employee Health. Requests to teach or attend classes online based upon unvaccinated status will not be granted.

All individuals who decline vaccination will be expected to adhere to campus pandemic policies and protocols. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated:

- Are expected to continue to wear a mask and social distance to protect yourself, your family and vulnerable members of the NMC community.
- May not be able to attend clinical or fieldwork. Many sites are requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for participation. NMC must follow the site-specific policies.
- May impede your graduation timeline if clinical or fieldwork experiences are unavailable to unvaccinated students.
- Must quarantine for 10 days if they encounter an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. Employees should contact Employee Health for quarantine guidelines.
- Will be unable to participate in Study Abroad programs.

It is up to individuals to honestly determine their own vaccination status. You are all a part of the NMC community as health care professionals or preparing to be future health care professionals and should be trusted to understand and follow pandemic requirements while on campus and at clinical/fieldwork experiences. **If you are ill with COVID-19 symptoms, or have a COVID-19 exposure, please call Campus Health (students) or Employee Health (employees) before coming to campus.**

I realize some individuals may not wish to or cannot be vaccinated. NMC's pandemic policies and protocols are not meant to be punitive if you do not vaccinate. My intent is to provide an environment that allows us to support an educational experience that is effective and safe with the least number of restrictions. As an academic institution, we depend on research and science to help guide us. Therefore, we have closely considered a wide range of medical and scientific research and information, including articles, emails, and opinions that have come our way.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this new world.

Deb Carlson

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