

*****NMC UPDATE 08/12/2021—RE: New Covid-19 Vaccination Mandate & On-campus Masking Requirements*****

Dear NMC Students,

Covid-19 poses a growing public health threat that speaks directly to our mission *to positively impact the health and well-being of our community*. Today, all major health systems in the Omaha metro area move forward with the requirement that students, healthcare staff and faculty be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to take part in clinical/fieldwork at any of their facilities. Nebraska Methodist College students are part of the healthcare community and required to be fully vaccinated. We are here to help you with this process.

KEY STUDENT STEPS

- Visit the [COVID 19 Resource website](#) for vaccination information as soon as possible.
- Upload proof of vaccination in your program compliance tracker, CastleBranch or Typhon.
- Complete the vaccination process by the November 1, 2021 deadline.

For your safety, NMC is also reinstating masking requirements on campus for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, effective immediately. This policy is consistent with current CDC guidance given the high transmission rates of COVID-19 occurring in Douglas County and the highly contagious Delta variant. We will evaluate this policy throughout the semester, as it is our intention to relax the mask policy as soon as it is feasible.

The rationale for requiring the vaccine is simple and data-driven—our greatest responsibility as current and future health care professionals is to our patients and community. Science and research, two disciplines we honor highly, indicate that we are all safer when we are all vaccinated”. And, a vaccinated campus community gives us the best opportunity to continue to provide you the quality education NMC is known for.

The administration, faculty and staff understand some of you may have concerns. We are here to support you with information, expertise and counseling if needed. There is still ample time to begin the vaccination sequence and remain on track with your academic goals. Students, if you are unable to comply with the vaccination requirements, I respect your decision. However, NMC will not be able to place or allow you to continue in clinical/fieldwork without full vaccination compliance by November 1, 2021.

STUDENT VACCINATION PROCESS

Students granted an exemption previously must resubmit. Under the new policy standards, exemptions will be only for validated medical and religious reasons. Students who have submitted proof of vaccination do not need to do anything further.

Student Vaccination Information & Policy

- Visit the [COVID 19 Resource website](#).
- Schedule vaccinations to meet the compliance timeline.
- Access information about vaccination sites and limited exemptions.

Student Process to Decline Vaccinations

- Meet with your academic adviser immediately.
- Be aware of the short window to drop fall courses with a full refund.
- No exceptions will be made to the student withdrawal or refund policy based on vaccination status.

I, along with members of NMC leadership, medical experts at Methodist Health System and representatives across the entire healthcare community have closely considered the evidence. It clearly demonstrates the vaccine is the best defense against Covid-19. We will work through this together as a campus community committed to the *meaning of care*. I appreciate your attention and support!

Best regards,

Deb Carlson

Deb Carlson
President/CEO
Nebraska Methodist College