



**COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

Office of the President  
Byers Hall  
808 Ridge Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-6097  
Ph: 412.237.4413  
Fax: 412.237.4420  
[www.ccac.edu](http://www.ccac.edu)

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CCAC Colleagues,

As you may have heard, this past Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided information it had recently discovered regarding the Delta variant's ability to spread among vaccinated people. Because of this, the CDC also announced some new masking guidelines, including recommending the wearing of masks indoors for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors at schools nationwide, regardless of vaccination status. Appreciating that Tuesday's announcement has raised many questions and concerns, including how this may impact the college community, I want to clarify CCAC's position on the matter.

As a temporary precaution, CCAC employees, contractors, vendors and other service providers, whether fully, partially or not vaccinated, are required to wear a mask or face covering that meets CDC guidelines at all times indoors in any nonprivate (i.e., more than one occupant) room or other CCAC work location. Face masks are also mandatory in places where the individual will, or is likely to be, in proximity to other individuals (e.g., common areas, lobbies, hallways, elevators, vehicles, etc.) Masks may be removed in designated food service and eating areas, in accordance with posted guidelines and physical distancing requirements that remain in place at all CCAC facilities. Masks are not required in outdoor locations.

These mandates are also in force for all CCAC students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Masks or face coverings that meet CDC guidelines must be worn at all times when inside CCAC buildings and facilities, including laboratories, classrooms and other learning spaces, with two exceptions. Masks may be removed in designated food service and eating areas, in accordance with posted guidelines and physical distancing requirements. Additionally, students who need to remove their face masks during a classroom or laboratory period for a personal reason, such as to take medication or drink water, will be required to leave the classroom or laboratory before removing their mask.

Students and visitors will also be required to wear a mask when meeting in person with advisors, counselors, supportive services personnel, and registration and other college employees. Students and visitors who do not want to wear a mask in order to meet with an advisor, counselor or other college representative may schedule a virtual appointment. Masks are not required in outdoor locations.

It is also important to note that students undertaking clinical assignments will be required to comply with the rules and procedures in effect at the site of their clinical placement.

In addition to aligning with CDC recommendations, CCAC's actions are in line with Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines permitting businesses or organizations, such as schools, to keep their current mandates regarding facial coverings in place so as to provide an additional layer of protection for their employees and their customers or students. Additionally, these actions also ensure that CCAC is in compliance with OSHA's General Duty Clause, which requires employers to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm.

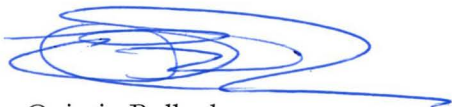
Given the virulent nature of the Delta variant, it is important that we all continue to do everything we can to keep both the college and wider community safe by reducing the risk of anyone at CCAC contracting COVID-19. With vaccinations and testing sites available across the region, everyone is highly encouraged to get vaccinated. As a reminder, CCAC continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations through its partnership with Integrated Health 21. A number of new clinic dates have recently been added, so if you or a family member is interested in getting vaccinated, there are openings available. Please watch for and respond to an Integrated Health 21 (IH21) announcement to register to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

Lastly, as we prepare for the opening of the 2021-22 academic year, faculty, staff, and students are asked to implement the following actions:

- First, we need to fight pandemic fatigue by remaining vigilant to the very real dangers that the COVID-19 virus and Delta variant presents to all of us.
- Second, we must think before we act—by doing so, we may find that we need to further adjust our normal routines to protect each other and ourselves.
- And third, we must embrace and follow the temporary precaution to wear face masks, wash our hands thoroughly and frequently, and physically distance ourselves from others while avoiding large crowds.

The challenges we continue to face during this pandemic are ever-changing and complex, but we will get through them if we remain focused on the recommended CDC safety protocols. Thank you for all you are doing to help keep CCAC a safe place for our community.

Best,



Quintin Bullock,  
President