



August 27, 2021

Dear Palomar College Employees and Students,

As you are likely aware, the Pfizer vaccine was fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Monday, August 23, 2021. This action by the FDA triggers the activation of our Vaccination and Immunization Plan for all employees and students taking face-to-face courses.

As originally designed, the District's COVID-19 Vaccination and Immunization Plan, provides **students taking face-to-face classes** and **all employees** with six (6) weeks from the effective date of the vaccine receiving full FDA approval to become fully vaccinated. To afford students and employees with ample time to deliver proof of complete vaccination, or receive an approved medical or religious exemption, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and EOC Policy team have established **Monday, October 11, 2021** as the deadline for all employees and students taking face-to-face courses to comply.

- **Employees** are able to submit proof of vaccination by emailing a copy of their vaccination record to benefits@palomar.edu.
- **Students** taking face-to-face courses can submit proof of vaccination or a request for a religious or medical exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine through the MyPalomar student portal. Instructions to do so are available [here](#).

Due to the expectation that we will have students and employees filing for a COVID-19 vaccine exemption, we have established a mandatory weekly diagnostic screening of unvaccinated employees working onsite, and unvaccinated students taking courses onsite. The testing will begin on October 11, 2021.

It is important to understand that the testing procedure is in addition to the health and safety measures currently in place. You can find a complete list of COVID-19 mitigation and prevention strategies [here](#).

We also have convenient vaccination clinics scheduled at the main campus and education centers. You can find the vaccination event schedule [here](#).

Due to the fact that approval of the COVID-19 vaccine came at the start of the fall semester, the EOC and EOC Policy team are collaborating to add to our existing COVID-19 mitigation and

prevention strategies. These efforts are currently being discussed with our collective bargaining units.

Palomar College employees should address their concerns or questions to their supervisor. Students are encouraged to email vpstudentservices@palomar.edu with questions.

We appreciate your patience with this fluid situation and want to reassure you that the health and safety of our campus community remains as our guiding principle.

Stay well,

Star Rivera-Lacey, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Palomar Community College District