



# Fall 2021 Return

## *Safe Return to Campus*

NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, Niagara County Community College (NCCC) has followed safety protocols that supported a modified operation of classes and operations. All NCCC stakeholders have been very cooperative and helped ensure that we provided the safest operation possible. As the nation moves toward the next phase in the pandemic, NCCC has established a safety plan to help the campus return to pre-pandemic normalcy. The plan relies on the campus constituents remaining vigilant and committed to following the protocols below:

1. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) granted full approval of the Pfizer COVID vaccine. As a result, all Niagara County Community College students will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend in-person classes or receive any in-person services on campus in the fall semester. This is a state-mandated directive for all students attending any class's on-campus to be vaccinated. There is an up to 35-day grace period to allow students to provide proof of vaccination. All students **MUST** begin the process within the next 7 – 10 days to meet a September 27, 2021 deadline. Currently, students are the only group subject to the mandate. However, we are encouraging NCCC faculty and staff to get vaccinated, and will be working with our collective bargaining units to come to an agreement to require **ALL** employees to be fully vaccinated.
2. All students and employees should verify with the campus they have been vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination card. Students should provide their information to the Wellness Center located at C-122. Employees should provide their information to the Human Resources office located at A-261. A sticker will be provided to the student and employee to place on the back of their ID badge.
3. Due to the recent rise in COVID cases due to the delta variant, NCCC has reintroduced the masking policy – requiring **ALL** people on campus (students, faculty, staff, visitors) to wear a mask at all times, **EXCEPT** when they are actively eating, or alone in their personal office. The campus will adhere to this guidance until notified otherwise.
4. Testing will remain a key component of our safety protocols.
5. Employees who have verified proof of vaccination(s) **will not** be required to be tested, unless they do so voluntarily or display symptoms upon entering the campus. Students can do so voluntarily even though they have been vaccinated or if they are displaying symptoms.
6. Students who have been given a medical exemption or religious exemption from receiving the COVID vaccination, will be required to test weekly. All costs incurred for required testing on campus will be covered in full by the College. If students do not test according to the requirements, they will be restricted from entering campus until they

have been tested or verify proof of a negative test from an authorized outside testing center. Students who fail to adhere to the testing protocol will be subject to discipline as outlined in the Student's Rights and Responsibilities, Code of Conduct.

7. Employees who have **NOT** verified proof of their vaccination(s) will be subject to testing protocols and will be required to test weekly. All costs incurred for required testing on campus will be covered in full by the College. If employees do not test according to the requirements, they will be restricted from entering campus until they have been tested or verify proof of a negative test from an authorized outside testing center. Employees who fail to adhere to the testing protocol will be subject to discipline as outlined in the Administrative Conditions of Employment Handbook or appropriate Collective Bargaining Agreement; therefore, such employees will be restricted from entering campus and considered not available for work and will need to use leave accruals or loss of pay.
8. All athletes **MUST** be fully vaccinated prior to any intercollegiate / club sport activity (including practice and competition). Athletes while not actively participating in the competition or practice will be required to wear a facial mask.
9. All residential students who do not have a verified vaccination **MUST** provide a negative test, completed no more than 5 days prior to move-in and provide attestation of a 10-day self-quarantine prior to receiving access to their assigned room. This information **MUST** be provided to the housing office. Vaccinated students may request a room assignment with only fully vaccinated students. All residential students **MUST** be fully vaccinated by September 27, 2021.

All employees who have not provided proof of vaccination(s), **MUST** continue to self-screen on Banner Web prior to entering the campus. Individuals experiencing symptoms or who have answered yes to any of the questions should not report to campus and should contact the Wellness Center at 716-614-6277 for further guidance.

Thank you for your cooperation and ensuring a safe environment for our students and employees.

*\*\*\*As guidance and conditions are constantly evolving, the recent guidance is subject to change. Further correspondence will follow as required.*