



August 24, 2021

Dear Campus Community:

Since the start of the pandemic, TC3 has successfully maintained a productive environment for teaching and learning, while prioritizing the health of our students, staff, and faculty. We have relied on the Tompkins County Health Department to help us ensure that our protocols are in line with county, state, and federal guidance. That guidance tells us that the key to ending this pandemic lies in widespread vaccinations. That is why upon the recent federal authorization of the Pfizer vaccine, SUNY has mandated that all community college, SUNY four year, and CUNY students who use on-campus facilities will be required to show proof of vaccination.

Full FDA approval of the vaccines further shows that they are safe and the best defense against COVID-19, including the delta variant. The vaccines do not stop all infections, but they drastically reduce the significant negative impacts that can lead to hospitalization and death. We recognize that there has been much misinformation and skepticism about the vaccines, but the position of TC3, SUNY, the State of New York, and the CDC is clear: *vaccines are our best option to ending this deadly pandemic*. The vaccine requirement and our mask mandates are vital to keep our campus safe for the next academic year.

Thank you for working with us to create and maintain a safe and vibrant campus community.

Dr. Paul Reifenheiser

Provost and Administrator in Charge (AIC)

Vaccines Now Required for Students Using College Facilities in Person

Tompkins Cortland Community College is now requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for students who will be attending classes on campus, using our facilities – included the Ithaca and Cortland Extension Centers, or living in our residence halls per SUNY (The State University of New York) requirements. This requirement took effect on August 23, 2021 and students have until September 27 to submit proof of vaccination showing that they have had two shots of the Pfizer vaccine, or two shots of the Moderna, or one shot of the Johnson and Johnson.

The College is offering a convenient way to be vaccinated on campus through two clinics to be held September 1 and 2. Students can move-in to residence halls and begin classes if they are unvaccinated, but should register to receive the vaccination on one of these days through this link: <https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/covid19popup>. This is for the Pfizer vaccine that requires a second dose. The second dose clinics are also scheduled on campus for September 22 and 23.

Students who fail to show proof of vaccination – except those who have obtained approval for an exemption - will be removed from in-person classes and our residence halls without a refund on September 27. Students who wish to request a medical or religious exemption must contact the Health and Wellness Center at healthcenter@tompkinscortland.edu or 607-844-8222 ext. 4487 and make the request by September 1.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last updated 8/24/2021

I don't want to get the vaccine, may I still take classes?

Unvaccinated students may take fully online/remote classes. While you may not utilize our in-person facilities, we offer a wide array of online/remote courses and we offer support services virtually. However, we can't guarantee that you will be able to replace your face-to-face classes with remote/online options. If you need assistance changing your class schedule please contact Enrollment Services at regbilling@tompkinscortland.edu or call **607.844.6580**.

Where can I read more about the SUNY policy and the vaccine mandate?

The official announcement from the FDA is here: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine> and the official SUNY Policy is here: https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=900

I am only taking online classes, may I live in the residence hall if I am unvaccinated?

All residence hall students must be in compliance with the vaccine mandate by September 27. The types of classes you are taking do not change this requirement. Students can move-in to residence halls and begin classes if they are unvaccinated, but should register to receive the vaccination on one of these days through this link: <https://tompkinscountynyny.gov/health/covid19popup>. This is for the Pfizer vaccine that requires a second dose. The second dose clinics are also scheduled on campus for September 22 and 23.

I am only taking online classes, may I come to campus to utilize support services?

Unvaccinated students may not come to campus to utilize support services after September 27. We do offer a variety of online/remote services to help fully online/remote students.

I need a medical/religious exemption to getting the vaccine; how do I do that? When do I need to make that request?

Students must request a medical or religious exemption by September 1. Students may initiate the request by contacting Health and Wellness Center at healthcenter@tompkinscortland.edu or 607-844-8222 ext. 4487. Please note that all exemptions must be approved, and a request is not a guarantee of an exemption. Students will also be required to provide supporting documentation.

How do I show my proof of vaccination?

Students may submit proof of COVID-19 vaccine by uploading it via the Health and Wellness Portal in your MyTC3 account at <https://tompkinscortland.studenthealthportal.com> or call Health and Wellness Services at 607-844-8222 ext. 4487 if you need assistance.

May I use the College's facilities while I am in the process of getting vaccinated?

Yes. SUNY has noted that students have until September 27 to show proof of being of vaccination. Until that time, students may use our facilities. We urge students to take the necessary steps to become vaccinated by September 27.

May I continue to use College facilities if I have the first shot of but not the second by September 27?

Students must show proof of vaccination by September 27. That means students must have completed both shots of Pfizer or Moderna or the single shot of Johnson and Johnson by September 27.

Will my face-to-face classes provide a remote option for me after September 27?

The SUNY mandate requires that we remove unvaccinated students from face-to-face classes. However, some of our face-to-face classes offer fully remote options for students. In those cases, the College will work with faculty if an unvaccinated student wishes to use all remote options for the remainder of the semester. In those class sections, faculty will be provided a list of students who may only continue in the class if they are taking part fully remotely. Please note that most of our face-to-face classes do not offer fully remote options, and faculty are not required to provide fully remote options for face-to-face classes. Do not assume that you will be provided a fully remote option if you have signed up for a face-to-face course. Instead, review the course outlines and confirm with your professor if this option is available.

May I take a face-to-face course until September 27 and then switch to a fully remote/online course?

No. Students may not switch sections after our drop/add period. Students may sign up for late start 10 week classes, but those are new courses and any work done in other classes would not carry over.

What will happen if I do not show full proof of vaccination by September 27?

You will be dropped from face-to-face courses, removed from our residence halls, and not allowed to utilize any of our campus facilities.

What if I lost my vaccination card?

You can either download an app for your phone that will validate your vaccination status OR access a digital version of your proof of vaccination with the Excelsior Pass Plus. You can do both of those things at <https://epass.ny.gov/home> - a screenshot of your Excelsior Pass is an acceptable form of proof of vaccination for this purpose. You will need to know some basic information such as the county where you received the shot and the dates of your first (and if needed) second dose to access your validated pass.

If you still have your paper card, it is recommended that you take a photo of or scan both sides of your card so you will always have a digital copy of it.

Does the vaccine requirement apply to CollegeNow students?

This requirement does not apply to students taking courses in their high school. This mandate applies only to students taking courses and utilizing our facilities. So, a student taking CollegeNow courses at their local high school would have to follow the health protocols of their high school.

The College has implemented vaccine requirements, and mask mandates, but what are the cleaning protocols for classrooms?

The College will be disinfecting classrooms on a daily basis, which is in-line with SUNY requirements.

I want to get vaccinated ASAP, where can I go to get vaccinated?

Most local pharmacies are now offering the vaccine, so you can check in with your local doctor or visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/> - this site also allows you to search the entire United States as well as filter by the type of vaccine.

- Tompkins County Residents: <https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/covid19popup>
- Cortland County Residents: <https://www.cortland-co.org/1009/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information>
- New York State Residents (State Run Sites): <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

Do I need to continue to get tested now that the vaccine mandate is in place?

Yes, unvaccinated students who come to campus will continue to be tested weekly until they show proof of vaccination.

Do I need to wear a mask on campus?

The College is still enforcing the Tompkins County Health Advisory and requiring all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear masks in all indoor settings, unless you are alone in your office or private workspace.



For the most up to date information on the College's COVID-19 Policies, please bookmark this website:

<https://www.tompkinscortland.edu/college-info/covid-19-policies-and-updates>