



Updated January 11, 2022

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### Summary of TC3 Spring 2022 COVID-19 Policies

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- All students must be fully vaccinated, including a booster shot for those who are eligible, before returning to campus for the Spring 2022 semester.
- All students will be expected to participate in our return-to-campus testing program within their first week of in-person classes.
- Masks must be worn at all times while indoors on campus, regardless of vaccination status, until further notice.
- Anyone on campus who has an approved exemption from vaccination or any employee who has not provided proof of vaccination will continue mandatory weekly testing.

Per updated SUNY and NYS guidelines for Spring 2022, Tompkins Cortland Community College continues to require COVID-19 vaccinations for students who will be attending classes on campus, using our facilities – including the Ithaca and Cortland Extension Centers, using classrooms at the TC3 Farm and Coltivare, or living in our residence halls. The initial vaccine requirement took effect on August 23, 2021. **In addition to the initial course of vaccination, any student with a regular on-campus presence (i.e., not fully remote for the semester) who is eligible for a booster shot must receive one for the Spring 2022 semester.**

Booster shot eligibility is as follows:

Original Vaccine	Age	When to get a booster	What Booster can I get?
Pfizer	Everyone 12 and older	5 months after 2 <sup>nd</sup> shot	Age 12-17, Pfizer Age 18+, Pfizer or Moderna
Moderna	Everyone 18 and older	5 months after 2 <sup>nd</sup> shot	Pfizer or Moderna
Johnson & Johnson	Everyone 18 and older	2 months after J&J shot	Pfizer or Moderna

Students are expected to provide proof of vaccination – except those who have obtained approval for an exemption - before the start of the spring semester, January 26. Students who wish to request a medical or religious exemption must contact Health and Wellness Services at [healthcenter@tompkinscortland.edu](mailto:healthcenter@tompkinscortland.edu) or 607-844-8222 ext. 4487 and make the request no later than Wednesday, January 19.

**Students who are vaccinated, but not boosted, per SUNY and the New York State Department of Health, are mandated to get their booster shot as soon as they are eligible.**

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## CAMPUS RAPID TESTING PROGRAM

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The switch to a campus rapid testing program will allow the College to immediately identify and isolate positive individuals and is consistent with the recommendations of the Tompkins County Health Department.

### What is the difference between a rapid test and a PCR test?

**Rapid antigen tests are recommended for individuals who do not have symptoms**, and are seeking quick results to identify infection or increase confidence that you are not positive for COVID-19. They are a simple self-administered nasal swab with results in 10 minutes.

PCR testing will continue to be available but should only be used by those who are symptomatic or have had a known exposure. A PCR test allows the test to successfully detect even the smallest amount of coronavirus genetic material in a sample. This makes it a highly sensitive and accurate test for detecting the presence of the virus, whether or not you are currently contagious. **If you are symptomatic, a PCR test is preferred** so that you can identify if your symptoms are from COVID-19 or another illness. If you know you have been **exposed to a person who is positive, a PCR test is also preferred** to determine presence of the virus before symptoms develop.

### ARRIVAL TESTING

SUNY is mandating that students, faculty, and staff participate in return-to-campus testing. Residential Life students will be required to test during the move-in process and commuter students and faculty/staff should participate in the pop-up testing provided at the main entrance. Residential Life students need to arrive during these times to be tested.

Group	When	Where to test
Early Arrival Students (RAs, Athletes, student leaders, etc.)	January 18 & 19 (ongoing for Athletes)	Health Center (118A)
NEW Residential Life students	Sunday, January 23 - 11am-2pm	Multipurpose Room, Athletic Facility
RETURNING Residential Life students	Tuesday, January 25 - 10am-3pm	Multipurpose Room, Athletic Facility
Commuter Students	Thursday, January 27 - 1pm-3pm Monday, January 31 - 9am-11am	Main entrance pop-up
Faculty & Staff	Thursday, January 27 - 1pm-3pm Monday, January 31 - 9am-11am	Main entrance pop-up

### ONGOING SURVEILLANCE TESTING

Vaccinated but not boosted students, faculty, and staff should regularly participate in our campus rapid testing program. Boosted students, faculty, and staff may participate in our campus rapid testing program. For the first few weeks of the semester, the Health and Wellness Team will operate a pop-up rapid testing site at the main entrance on Mondays from 9am-11am and Thursdays, 1pm to 3pm. Please know that you will have to wait at the pop-up for 10 minutes to receive your results so be sure to schedule accordingly.

### **What happens if I am positive when I rapid test?**

The Health and Wellness Team will submit your positive result to the Tompkins County Health Department. You will be asked to return home and isolate if you are a commuter student, faculty, or staff member or will be moved to an isolation room if you are a Residential Life student.

### **UNVACCINATED – MANDATED TESTING**

Unvaccinated students (those in process of being fully vaccinated or those with exemptions) who come to campus must be tested weekly. Students should go directly to the Health Center (118A) to set up a recurring appointment to be tested. Faculty and staff are asked to test on either Tuesdays from 10am-12pm or Wednesdays from 12:30pm-2:30pm.

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### **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](mailto:regbilling@tompkinscortland.edu) or call **607.844.6580**.

### **I'm vaccinated, but not boosted – can I come to campus or take in-person classes?**

The SUNY mandate is for all students that are eligible to receive a booster shot to do so. However, you are able to come to campus and participate in in-person classes and campus programs before you have been boosted. Please remember to upload your proof of booster shot into the campus Health and Wellness Portal. Please see the attached .pdf with detailed instructions on how to upload your proof.

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

The official announcement for the August 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](https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=900)

Updated information on SUNY's Spring 2022 guidance is here: <https://www.suny.edu/campus-reopening/>

### **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 and booster mandate. 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 vaccinated but not boosted, but must get the booster shot when eligible.

You will also need to sign on to the Health and Wellness Portal to indicate that you intend to be all remote and submit an attestation that you will not come to campus for any reason. You can access the 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.

### **I am unvaccinated and 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. We do offer a variety of online/remote services to help fully online/remote students. You must also register yourself as a fully online student and complete an attestation at the Health and Wellness portal here <https://tompkinscortland.studenthealthportal.com>.

### **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 contacting the Health and Wellness Services at [healthcenter@tompkinscortland.edu](mailto:healthcenter@tompkinscortland.edu) or 607-844-8222 ext. 4487 no later than Wednesday, January 19. 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 submit my proof of vaccination and booster shot?**

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.

### **If I already submitted proof of vaccination, do I have to go in again to provide proof of my booster shot?**

Yes. Students may submit proof of COVID-19 booster 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.

### **What if I lost my vaccination card?**

You can download an app for your phone that will validate your vaccination here:

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/excelsior-pass-and-excelsior-pass-plus> - 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 got your vaccine or booster dose at a pharmacy (like CVS or Walgreens) they may be able to provide an electronic copy for you.

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 and booster 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 consistent with SUNY and NYS DOH requirements.

### **I want to get vaccinated or boosted ASAP, where can I go to get vaccinated or boosted?**

Most local pharmacies are now offering the vaccine and the booster, 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?**

- Unvaccinated students (those in process of being of being fully vaccinated or those with exemptions) who come to campus must be tested weekly.
- Vaccinated but not boosted students should regularly participate in our campus rapid testing program.
- Boosted students are encouraged to participate in our campus rapid testing program.

### **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 more information on how to choose a quality mask and how to properly wear a mask, please see this link: <https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/covid19prevention#masks>

### **Should I come to campus if I am symptomatic?**

No. If you are ill at all, please seek testing through the site at the mall to determine if your symptoms are from COVID-19 or another illness. Do not come to campus.

### **What should I do if I take a home test and I am positive?**

Do not come to campus. Please let the campus COVID-19 team know by emailing [reportcovid19@tompkinscortland.edu](mailto:reportcovid19@tompkinscortland.edu) and we will contact you to check-in. Students should work with their faculty members to stay current on academic responsibilities and faculty/staff should contact their immediate supervisor.

Counties in New York State are also asking that individuals self-report their home testing positive cases. For more information on home testing and reporting, please visit this link:

Tompkins County: <https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/factsheets/coronavirussamplingsite#selftest>

Cortland County: <https://www.cortland-co.org/432/Health-Department>

### **Who can I contact if I have any questions or wish to report a concern?**

The College has established an email that can be used for any of the following reasons:

- If a student self-reports to you that they are positive or in quarantine
- If a student reports to you that they think another student is positive or in quarantine
- If you wish to report a concern that someone is not following College COVID-19 protocols
- To ask a question regarding any of the College COVID-19 protocols

The email is [reportcovid19@tompkinscortland.edu](mailto:reportcovid19@tompkinscortland.edu) and is listed in Outlook as "COVID19 Reports."

**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>