

VACCINE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. Douglas Houston, Chancellor
September 24, 2021

Background

- At its 8/23/21 meeting, the SCCCD Governing Board enacted:
Effective October 15, 2021, and until rescinded by the Chancellor or the Board of Trustees all employees, students, contractors, and visitors, shall present proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition to physically accessing any District building, classroom, library, gymnasium, facility, or other indoor space.

This is in addition to all other safety measures required by law or competent authority, or implemented by the Chancellor.

The District's COVID-19 protective measures are subject to legally required exemptions for sincerely held religious beliefs and medical conditions.

Board's Purpose

- Protect the health and well-being of students, employees, and the community
- Support regional efforts to slow/reduce COVID transmission to ease the burden of regional healthcare providers

Chancellor's Intent & Desired End State

- Policy will be implemented with grace, patience, and respect for the individual dignity of our students, employees, contractors, and visitors.
- Compliance is required by the effective date.
- Any exemptions or temporary accommodations will nevertheless ensure that we protect the health and well-being of students, employees, and the community.

Context - our understanding on Aug 23, 2021

- Regional positivity rates were increasing rapidly - 10% to 12%: hospitalizations were increasing rapidly
- Concern local health care systems could be overwhelmed
- UC, CSU & 28 CCDs had established Vaccine “mandate” policies
- FDA had approved Pfizer “Comirnaty” and extended EUA for “BioNTech” (FDA says these are same vaccine but “legally distinct”)
- CDC was urging vaccine as means of achieving “herd immunity”
- Public concern about vaccine safety
- In previous 30 days, SCCCD had:
 - 29 employees test positive (about 1% of total employee population)
 - 61 students test positive (less than 0.5% of on-site students)
 - Possibly one case of on-site transmission

Employee Vaccination Status

SCCCD Employees Vaccinated

As of 9/7/21

- 1,039 - Self-reported being vaccinated
- 52 - Submitted but pending HR review
- 367 - Requiring additional verification

As of 9/23/21

- 1,479 - Self-reported being vaccinated
- 8 - Pending Review
- 240 - Requiring additional verification

Implementation Issues - Recommendations

Impact to Students

- Financial Aid repayment (student will have completed >60% of course):
 - Student
 - SCCCD
- Future Financial Aid eligibility
- Need more time to transition students to alternatives
- Reimburse fees? Buy back texts?
- Options:
 - No change - allow impact to students & absorb costs
 - **Revise policy - effective date end of semester * to avoid all impacts to currently enrolled students**
 - **Revise policy - effective date to Nov 1st or preferably Nov 15th ** to avoid financial aid impacts to currently enrolled students**

* Chancellor's recommendation

** Presidents' recommendation

Implementation Issues - Recommendations

Impact to Events

- Athletic Competitions
- Not all conference colleges mandate vaccines
- Options:
 - No change - move “home” meets (away travel)
 - No change - forfeit matches
 - **Revise policy - Follow CCCAA measures (vaccine or testing)**
- Student Performances
- Options:
 - No change - limited/prohibit public access
 - No change - move events to offsite venues
 - **Revise policy - Follow guidelines similar to other regional performances (vaccine or testing)**

Impact to Public

- Outdoor Events (public access to restrooms)
- Options:
 - No change - prohibit public access
 - No change - increase staffing to monitor compliance
 - **Revise policy - Allow up to 15 minutes access**

Context - as of Sept 24, 2021

- Regional positivity rates have decreased - 8.4%; hospitalizations remain about the same
- Other approaches to vaccine policies:
 - Of the 45 CCDs that now have policies, just under half allow testing as alternative
 - City of Fresno, CA schools (inc. FUSD, CUSD, etc) allow testing as alternative
 - President Biden has announced directive for “Vaccine or testing” mandate for Federal Employees and businesses (>100 employees)
- Growing research that natural immunity is more effective than vaccines
- Public concern about vaccine safety remains
- In previous 30 days, SCCCD had:
 - 26 employees test positive (about 1% of total employee population)
 - 66 students test positive (less than 0.5% of on-site students)
 - Possibly one case of on-site transmission

Recommendations - one of two strategies

- Revise policy to allow testing as alternative to vaccination
 - Positivity and hospitalization rates are decreasing
 - SCCCD has had substantially lower positivity rates (<1%) than general population
 - SCCCD has not been a site for COVID transmission even with current measures
 - Testing is allowed as alternative to vaccines for many CCDs, CCCAA, USDs, City of Fresno, and now by directive for federal employees and businesses (>100 employees)
- Revise policy to change effective date for students
 - Reduce impact to currently enrolled students
 - Avoid long-term financial aid eligibility impacts

In all cases, students and employees may need to conform to more stringent policies depending on studies/vocation - e.g. Allied Health fields

Recommendations - impacts to events

Recommend revising policy to allow:

- Exempt Athletic events (follow CCCAA guidelines)
- Exempt Student Performance events (follow common regional practices)
- Allow limited public access to restrooms at outdoor events

Recommendations - one of two Resolutions

- Resolution 2021.37

Revise policy to conform to allowing testing as alternative to vaccine* (e.g. negative test within previous 72 hours); allow exemptions for athletic competitions (CCCAA guidelines), student performance events and allow public access to restrooms for outdoor events.

- Resolution 2021.36

Maintain policy requirement for vaccines only*; adjust effective date for students (Nov 1?, Nov 15?, end of semester?); allow exemptions for athletic competitions (CCCAA guidelines), student performance events and allow public access to restrooms for outdoor events.

**In both courses of action - exemptions granted for strongly held religious beliefs and for medical conditions*

Questions?