



WEST HILLS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

March 23, 2022

Student Q & As about the WHCCD COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP)

These Q & As are subject to change based on orders from local health departments, the California Department of Public Health, CalOSHA, the State of California, or the Centers for Disease Control. Policies and protocols will be adjusted as the regulations change and any changes will be shared with employees, students, and the District Community.

Q1: What is the COVID-19 Prevention Program?

A1: The COVID-19 Prevention Program serves as a functional document in identifying hazards associated with COVID-19 and control measures that can reduce the risk of exposure. The COVID-19 Prevention Program addresses requirements identified in the emergency standard 8CCR section 3205.

Q2: Am I required to get a COVID-19 vaccination?

A2: No. Employees and students are strongly encouraged to take the vaccine after consulting with their physician. However, WHCCD is not requiring staff or students to receive the vaccine.

Q3: Am I required to show proof of my vaccine?

A3: No. The choice to submit proof of a vaccination record is solely a personal choice and not a requirement of WHCCD.

Q4: Is it a HIPAA Violation for WHCCD to ask an employee or student to provide proof of vaccination status?

A4: No. Providing proof of vaccination status is a “volunteer” action. Employees or students can choose not to share their vaccination record.

Q5: Am I required to wear a face covering?

A5: No. Effective Monday, March 28, 2022, WHCCD will be lifting the indoor mask mandate and shifting to “strongly recommend” that individuals wear face coverings indoors. WHCCD will continue to monitor the latest state requirements and will comply with any changes in public health orders, including reinstatement of a mask requirement if necessary.

Q6: Are there any reasons when a face covering will still be required?

A6: Yes. Even though the face covering mandate is lifted, face coverings will still be required for the following reasons:

- a. When an individual had COVID-19 or had a close contact with a COVID-19 case and returns to one of the campus sites.
- b. When there is an outbreak.
- c. When riding in employer-provided motor vehicle transportation.

Q7: If there is no mask mandate, can I still wear my face mask/covering?

A7: Yes. Anyone who would like to continue to wear their face mask/covering may do so. WHCCD will support and respect any student or staff member that wants to continue wearing a mask/covering. Also, WHCCD will provide N95 masks for anyone who wishes to wear one. We are asking faculty, staff, and students to respect everyone's choice to wear/not wear a mask, to be courteous to each other, and to consider wearing a mask when in the close proximity of someone who is wearing a mask.

Q8: Is there a possibility the mask mandate may be reinstated?

A8: Yes. WHCCD will continue to monitor the latest state requirements and will comply with any changes in public health orders, which may include reinstating the mask mandate. WHCCD asks everyone to continue COVID-19 health protocols, which include the daily health screener, staying home if you are not feeling well and testing, washing hands/using hand sanitizer, and staying up-to-date with C-19 vaccinations after consulting with your physician. WHCCD will remain flexible and respond accordingly.

Q9: If I have already been provided PPE or would like PPE, will I be able to keep it or obtain it?

A9: Yes. You may keep PPE equipment (plexi., barriers, etc.) assigned to you. If you currently do not have plexi. Or other PPE and would like some, please work with your supervisor.

Q10: Will N95's be available to students, faculty and staff?

A10: Yes. Any student, faculty and staff member who would like an N95 mask may obtain one.

N95 masks can be picked up from the following locations:

- District Office: Human Resources Department
- WHC Coalinga: Maintenance and Operations Department
- Firebaugh Center: Front Desk
- WHC Lemoore: President's Office (Building 100), Learning Resource Center (Building 400), Student Union (Building 900) and Room 270

Q11: What will happen if there is a report of a positive case or exposure once the mask mandate is lifted and how will individuals be notified?

A11: The district will continue to follow all contact tracing and notifications per CalOSHA. For additional details on who will be required to isolate or quarantine, please review [Appendix I](#) in the Covid Prevention Plan.

If a classroom is impacted, The C19 team will work with the instructor in order to obtain the most current attendance in order to begin checking vaccinations and following up with students in the class who may have potentially been exposed.

Q12: Will the district continue its disinfection protocols?

A12: *Yes. The district will continue to disinfect and sanitize all buildings and classrooms.*

Q13: Have there been any changes to social distancing requirements?

A13: *The physical distancing requirements continue to be eliminated in the revised CalOSHA Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) except as follows:*

- *During an outbreak (three or more individuals in an exposed group), the District is required to evaluate whether physical distancing or barriers are necessary to control the transmission of COVID-19.*
- *Physical distancing must be used in a major outbreak (20 or more individuals in exposed group), regardless of vaccination status except when the District demonstrates that maintaining six feet of distance is not feasible. When it is not feasible to maintain six feet of distance, persons must be as far apart as feasible.*

Q14: Will we need to continue our daily health screening via the West Hills SAFE app?

A14: *Yes. All students, faculty and staff will need to continue the daily health screening and room check in via the West Hills Safe App.*

Q15: What is the West Hills Safe App.?

A15: *West Hills Safe is a smartphone application designed for West Hills Community College District to meet requirements of emergency standard 8CCR section 3205 by sending daily pre-screening forms to the District community before they come to campus, clearing students and staff with a daily Health Pass, and target exposure notifications with QR Code Contact Tracking.*

Q16: What if I don't have a smartphone to complete the daily health screening or phone with a camera that can read a QR code?

A16: *No problem! Employees or Students without a smartphone or camera on their phone can use the web form: [Campus Cloud \(readyeducation.com\)](https://readyeducation.com)*

Q17: Who will have access to the information when I scan my QR code and how will this information be used?

A17: *Only Human Resources will have access to the health screening data and vaccination data. Human Resources will be monitoring the data for contact-tracing and reporting purposes only and will ensure that any personal identifying information of COVID-19 cases or persons with COVID-19 symptoms, and any medical records shall be kept confidential.*

Q18: If I've uploaded my COVID-19 vaccine information, will I be required to answer the daily health screening?

A18: *Yes. The pre-screening form on the app. is a "daily" form and resets at 11:59 p.m. every day.*

Q19: If I receive the daily health screening reminder but I am not scheduled to come to campus/district site, do I have to answer the health screening?

A19: *No. If you will not be on site, you are not required to complete the daily health screening for that day.*

Q20: Are on-line tutorials/resources for the West Hills Safe App?

A20: *For detailed instructions on how to download and use the West Hills Safe App, please see the [West Hills Safe App Guide](#) or watch the [West Hills Safe App video](#).*

Q21: Are vaccine clinics available for employees and students who haven't received the COVID-19 vaccine?

A21: *Yes. WHCCD strongly encourages all students and employees to get the vaccine after consulting with their physician, and when eligible to receive a booster. The District has partnered with Aria Health and the Kings County Department of Health to provide additional vaccine clinics for students, staff, and the community. Get informed and learn the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine at <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>.*

Q22: Are mental health services available for students to help them copewith anxiety and stress related to COVID-19?

A22: *Yes. Free confidential mental wellness resources are available for students as follows:*

West Hills College Coalinga [Student Wellness Counseling Referral](#) West Hills
College Lemoore [Student Conduct/Concern Reporting Form](#)

Q23: What is a Close Contact?

A23: *Being within 6 feet of someone with the virus without a face covering for a cumulative total of 15 minutes (or more) in any 24-hour period within or overlapping with the "high risk exposure period".*

Q24: What is Contact Tracing?

A24: *A public health measure undertaken to slow and eventually halt the spread of a disease that is transmitted person-to-person, in which people who have come in close proximity to or direct contact with an infected person are identified and monitored for signs of infection.*

Q25: What are COVID-19 Symptoms?

A25: *Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, unless a licensed health care professional determines the person's symptoms were caused by a known condition other than COVID-19.*

Q26: What is a QR Code?

A26: *Short for quick response, a type of barcode that contains a matrix of dots that contain information about an item, such as a description and/or location, which can be read and processed by a cellphone.*

Q27: What is Quarantine?

A27: *To separate and restrict the movement of someone who was exposed to COVID-19 to see if they become sick.*

Q28: Do I have to report if I test positive for COVID-19 or if I am directly exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, even if I am not coming to campus?

A28: *Yes, for contact tracing purposes it is best if you update your status in the West Hills Safe App even if you haven't been to campus since testing positive or being exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19.*

Q29: What if I lose my vaccination record/card?

A29: *Go to <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov> to obtain a digital copy of your vaccination record. After accessing the website, you will be asked to enter a few details. You will then receive a link to a QR code and digital copy of your COVID-19 vaccination record.*

Q30: What are the Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines?

A30: *Isolation for Individuals that test Positive for COVID-19*

All individuals who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should stay home for at least five days. Isolation can end after day five if symptoms are not present or resolving and if an antigen test collected on day five or later is negative. Please upload a copy of the negative test to the West Hills Safe App. in order to be cleared to come back onto campus. Upon return, continue to wear a mask around others.

Quarantine for Individuals that are Exposed to someone with COVID-19

- Unvaccinated with Symptoms-Should be excluded from the campus site and test on day 5. If negative and no symptoms, return to the campus site. If you test positive, isolate and refer to "isolation" instructions. If no test, you can return to campus at day 11 as long as symptoms are resolved for 24 hours.*
- Unvaccinated with No Symptoms-Should be excluded from the campus site and test on day 5. If negative, return to the campus site. If you test positive, isolate and refer to "isolation" instructions. If no test, you can return to campus at day 11. If you have had a prior COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days, you can return to the campus site immediately but must watch for symptoms. If you develop symptoms, you must be excluded from the campus site pending the result of a test.*
- Vaccinated, Not Booster-Eligible, with Symptoms-Should be excluded from the campus site and test on day 5. If negative and no symptoms, return to the campus site. If you test positive, isolate and refer to "isolation" instructions. If no test, you can return to campus at day 11 as long as symptoms are resolved for 24 hours.*
- Vaccinated, Not Booster-Eligible, with No Symptoms-You may return to the campus site immediately but must test on day 5. If positive, isolate and refer to "isolation" instructions. If no test, you can return to work immediately but you must wear a mask and distance 6 ft. for 14 days. If masking and distancing is impossible, you cannot return to campus until day 11. If you have had a prior COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days, you can return to the campus site immediately but must watch for symptoms. If you develop symptoms, you must be excluded*

from the campus site pending the result of a test.

- *Vaccinated, Booster-Eligible, with Symptoms-Should be excluded from the campus site and test on day 5. If negative and no symptoms, return to the campus site. If you test positive, isolate and refer to “isolation” instructions. If no test, you can return to the campus site at day 11 as long as symptoms are resolved for 24 hours.*
- *Vaccinated, Booster-Eligible, with No Symptoms-You may return to the campus site immediately but must test on day 3-5. If positive, isolate and refer to “isolation” instructions. If no test, you can return to the campus site immediately but you must wear a mask and distance 6 ft. for 14 days. If masking and distancing is impossible, you cannot return to the campus site until day 11. If you have had a prior COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days, you can return to the campus site immediately but must watch for symptoms. If you develop symptoms, you must be excluded from the campus site pending the result of a test.*
- *Boosted with Symptoms- Should be excluded from the campus site and test on day 5. If negative and no symptoms, return to the campus site. If you test positive, isolate and refer to “isolation” instructions. If no test, you can return to the campus site at day 11 as long as symptoms are resolved for 24 hours.*
- *Boosted with No Symptoms- You may return to the campus site immediately but must test on day 5. If positive, isolate and refer to “isolation” instructions. If no test, you can return to the campus site immediately but you must wear a mask and distance 6 ft. for 14 days. If masking and distancing is impossible, you cannot return to the campus site until day 11. If you have had a prior COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days, you can return to the campus site immediately but must watch for symptoms. If you develop symptoms, you must be excluded from the campus site pending the result of a test.*

Q31: What is the definition of “fully-vaccinated”?

A31: *When WHCCD has verified and has documented that an individual received a COVID-19 vaccine meets the requirements of a or b below:*

- a. *Two weeks after completing primary vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine with, if applicable, at least the minimum recommended interval between doses, that meet one of the following three criteria:*
 1. *Approved or authorized for emergency use by the FDA.*
 2. *Listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).*
 3. *Administered as part of a clinical trial at a U.S. site, if the recipient was:*
 - I. *Vaccinated with the active (not placebo) vaccine, for which vaccine efficacy has been independently confirmed or*
 - II. *Vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine that is neither approved nor authorized for use by FDA but is listed for emergency use by WHO;*
- OR**
- b. *Two weeks after receiving the second dose of any combination of two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that is approved or authorized by the FDA or listed as a two-dose series by the WHO. The second dose of the series must not be received earlier than 17 days after the first dose.*

Q32: What is the definition of “recently recovered”?

A32: *Recovered from COVID-19 within a period of 90 days after the initial onset of COVID-19 symptoms, or for COVID-19 cases who never developed symptoms, for a period of 90 days after the first positive test.*