



## Hennepin Technical College™

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January 7, 2022

Dear HTC Campus Community,

We hope you enjoyed a safe and relaxing holiday season, and we welcome all our students, faculty, staff, and other community members back to campus for spring semester.

Your health, safety, and wellbeing continue to be our top priority and are the paramount driver of our decisions. We work closely with and take guidance from the Minnesota State system office, Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE), and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

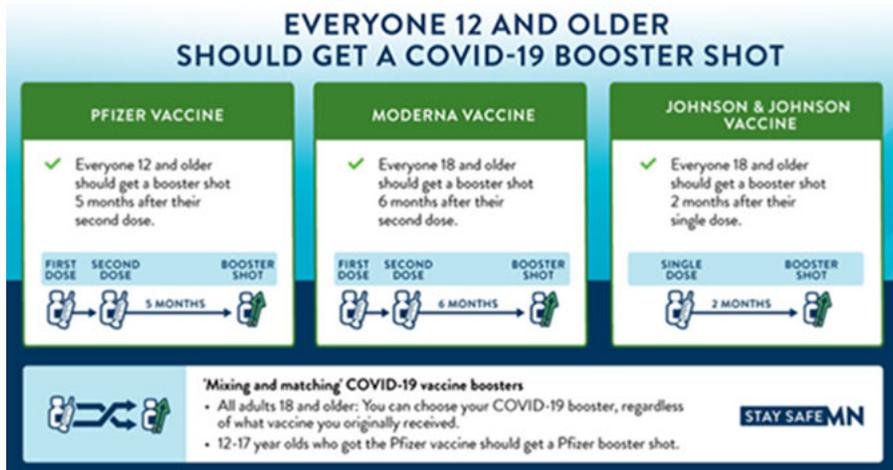
While we are excited to begin a new semester, we are also currently seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the state of Minnesota. In light of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, we are asking our Hennepin Technical College community to **remain diligent in following the established guidelines on campus and “lay-low” for the first few weeks of the semester.** This means:

- Classes will be in-person, online or a mix of both as previously planned. Individual faculty members have the authority over the delivery method of their classes.
- We encourage you to hold meetings and other gatherings remotely using Zoom or Teams and keep social contact to a minimum.
- For non-teaching positions, supervisors are encouraged to consider telework options where it is appropriate with position responsibilities and ensuring student needs are met.
- Mask wearing will continue to be required inside all campus buildings until further notice.

### VACCINATIONS AND BOOSTERS

We know that COVID-19 vaccines are effective, especially at preventing serious illness and death. Evidence shows booster shots, given at the appropriate time after your primary vaccination series, help extend the protection and keep it at a higher level. Watch this video [What are COVID-19 booster shots?](#) to learn more about how boosters help keep us safe and healthy.

Our best defense against the Omicron variant is to be vaccinated and boosted. CDC is now recommending that children 12-15 years old get a booster shot. Visit [MN COVID-19 Response: Vaccine Booster Shots](#) to read more about boosters.



### ON-CAMPUS VACCINATION CLINICS

HTC will be hosting **vaccination clinics** from **10:00 am – 4:00 pm** at the **Eden Prairie campus on Tuesday, February 8** and at the **Brooklyn Park campus on Tuesday, February 15**. Watch for more information on how to register for a vaccine or booster at one of these clinics. As in the past, these clinics will be open to all students, faculty, staff as well as the community.

### TESTING

Testing continues to be available to all Minnesota residents at no cost – anyone can get tested for COVID-19 with or without insurance. [Community testing sites](#) offer rapid antigen nasal swab tests, PCR saliva tests or both. Review the [Community Testing sites](#) web page for additional information on the different test types as well as recommendations on which type of test you should get.

Another option for testing is [Vault Saliva Testing at home](#). The Vault saliva test kits are polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, and checks if you have COVID-19 right now and can spread it to others. PCR tests are the most accurate tests for detecting the virus that causes COVID-19.

- There is no limit to the number of at-home saliva test kits you can order over time.
- Once your test kit arrives, take the test and send in as soon as possible.
- You cannot order a second Vault test until you receive the results from an outstanding test.
- If you are ordering tests for multiple family members, each person must register separately

### REPORTING POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

All students, faculty and staff are requested to **report all COVID-19 positive test** results to Randy Roehrick, Director of Public Safety, at 952-995-1525 or [randy.roehrick@hennepintech.edu](mailto:randy.roehrick@hennepintech.edu). In addition, faculty and staff should also report their positive test results to Paula Caspers, Human Resources Specialist, at 952-995-1487 or [paula.caspers@hennepintech.edu](mailto:paula.caspers@hennepintech.edu).

You should report all positive test results even if you are learning, teaching or working remotely and have not been on campus. Knowing of all positive cases within the HTC community, both on and off campus, helps us continue to make the best and safest decisions for all.

At this time, MDH continues to recommend the 10-day quarantine and has not implemented the CDC recommendation of 5-days. As soon as the quarantine timeframe changes for Minnesota, we will notify the campus.

### SAFEGUARDS ON CAMPUS

1. Requiring face coverings when indoors on campus
  - A clean face mask is required and must cover the nose and mouth completely.
  - Mask effectiveness is dependent on the type of mask worn. This is why a layered approach (vaccine, mask, ventilation, testing) is crucial, especially in light of the quickly spreading Omicron variant.

- You are encouraged to wear a surgical mask under your cloth mask or wear an N95 mask if available for additional protections.
- The Wall Street Journal [published](#) the graphic below on January 2, 2022, comparing the protection of different types of masks:



- Maintaining social distancing
  - Social distancing guidance support a 3-foot radius around each person, resulting in a 6-foot total distance between any two people.
- Frequent hand washing
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for a least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public space.
- Additional information can be found on the [HTC COVID-19 web page](#)

We look forward to working together, as a community, to ensure success for our students. Remember, to protect yourself and others, **get vaccinated, get boosted, wear a mask** – and if you feel sick, please **get tested**.

Stay Well. Stay Healthy.

COVID Response Team  
Hennepin Technical College