



## Hennepin Technical College™

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July 27, 2021

Students, Faculty and Staff,

In preparation for Fall Semester, the COVID Team is providing the following reminders and guidance with regards to vaccinations and masks.

***Do I need to wear a mask at Hennepin Technical College, other Minnesota State college and university buildings, or the system office?***

Individuals who are not vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a mask, and to stay 6 feet from others. Individuals who are vaccinated do not need to wear a mask, but may wish to wear one, and are welcome to do so.

***Can I require others to wear a mask in my classroom, workspace or when they are around me?***

No, we must follow the guidelines as set forth by Minnesota State and the State of Minnesota. Governor Waltz' Executive Order 21-23 states that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask, and all people who have not been vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in accordance with MDH and CDC recommendations until they are fully vaccinated. You may wear a mask and are welcome to do so, but you may not require others to wear one.

***How do we know if everyone who isn't wearing a mask is vaccinated?***

We don't know, but according to the CDC and MDH, you are safe if you are vaccinated. We strongly encourage all members of the campus community to help keep everyone safe and healthy by getting vaccinated, wearing a mask if they are not vaccinated or simply choose to do so, staying home if they are sick or not feeling well, washing their hands often, and practicing good hand, cough, and sneeze hygiene.

***Why isn't Hennepin Technical College and Minnesota State requiring all faculty, staff, and students to be vaccinated?***

Minnesota State is following the guidance from the State of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Health on vaccinations of our students and employees. Currently the State of Minnesota is not requiring vaccinations. We are, however, strongly encouraging our employees and students to get vaccinated.

***Why isn't Hennepin Technical College or Minnesota State requiring masks on its campuses or in the system office?***

Governor Walz' Executive Order 21-23 states that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask, and all people who have not been vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in accordance with MDH and CDC recommendations until they are fully vaccinated. These guidelines are also supported by the CDC and the MDH.

I'm not comfortable knowing people who likely aren't vaccinated aren't wearing a mask. What are my options? Anyone who wishes to do so can wear a mask for self-protection. In addition, we strongly encourage all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to wear a mask if they are not vaccinated or simply choose to do so, stay home if they are sick or not feeling well, wash their hands, and practice good hand, cough, and sneeze hygiene. We strongly encourage all members of the campus community/system office to help keep everyone safe and healthy by getting vaccinated.

**Are there social distancing requirements on campus?**

No. The governor’s most recent executive order removed directed social distancing measures for higher education.

**Where can I find more information?**

There are several resources:

- Visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#)
- Review [CDC Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Executive Orders / Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan \(mn.gov\)](#)

The COVID Team will send updates as additional information is received from the System Office, State of Minnesota or MDH/CDC.

Thank you,

COVID Response Team  
Hennepin Technical College

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