



HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

May 4, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter the final stretch of the spring semester, we want to share some updates about the health and safety requirements that will be in place during the summer and fall terms.

On April 21, 2022, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHSB) amended and re-adopted the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS). The amendments included in this third re-adoption of the ETS will remain in effect through December 31, 2022, unless extended, modified, or rescinded in the interim. The District intends to modify its health and safety plans and procedures to align with these changes effective May 31, 2022, and will continue to work collaboratively with our unions on potential impacts and working conditions of these changes.

Facial Coverings Are Optional Starting May 31 but Strongly Recommended

Starting at the beginning of summer session on Tuesday, May 31, facial coverings will no longer be required in indoor spaces at the main campus or education centers, regardless of vaccination status. However, for your protection, it is strongly recommended that you continue to wear a facial covering indoors when around others. For those who wish to continue wearing facial coverings, the District will make them available.

Per healthcare setting regulations, our Health Services department will continue to require facial coverings indoors.

Although we may hold different opinions, our expectation is that every one of our students, staff, and visitors will be treated with respect, civility, and understanding.

Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination Is No Longer Required to be Onsite

The Vaccination and Immunization Plan, which created the requirement for vaccinations, will sunset on May 31, 2022. As a result, employees and students are no longer required to submit proof of vaccination to the District. Unvaccinated employees and students are no longer required to test weekly for COVID-19. COVID-19 testing will no longer be available at any of our locations after May 31, 2022.

Cleared4 Daily Health Screening Required

For the summer and fall terms, all students, employees, and visitors are required to use the Cleared4 daily health screening and be cleared to be onsite BEFORE coming to the main campus or education centers. Here is specific information on using the Cleared4 daily health screening:

- In your palomar.edu email, locate and open Welcome email from no-reply@cleared4work.com or a text message from 833-635-1086.
- The link contained in the Welcome email is YOUR PERSONAL LINK. Please do not forward this link to anyone. It contains information specific to you.
- Click on the link and register your personal information.
- You will be able to set your preferences to receive daily reminders via email or text.
- Please look for the daily reminder and take the survey before coming to campus or education centers.

Visitors can access the daily health screening by visiting this [webpage](#).

Continued COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

Many other COVID-19 mitigation strategies will remain in place until further notice.

- The District requires those who are not feeling well to stay home and report illnesses through the COVID-19 questionnaire [at this link](#). The COVID-19 Response Action Team (CRAT) will continue to manage COVID-19 cases on the main campus and education centers.
- Cleared4 Daily Health Screening is required.
- Upgrades to the air-filtration systems are complete.
- Facial coverings will be made available to any member of the campus community. This includes respirators, such as N-95 facial coverings, if requested.

While we know these updates contain welcome news for some who have been eager to reach this milestone, we also recognize that it may cause anxiety for others. Below are resources to assist you.

- Students with general questions or concerns may contact vpstudentservices@palomar.edu.
- Students in need of Behavioral Health Counseling Services (BHCS), including consultation and confidential mental health services, should call (760) 891-7531 or email bhcs@palomar.edu.
- Employees in need of assistance should contact Palomar College Human Resource Services at benefits@palomar.edu or one of the Employees Assistance Programs listed below:

Anthem EAP: (800)999-7222

Website: AnthemEAP.com/sisc, Company Code = sisc

VOYA EAP: (877)533-2363, TDD: (800)697-0353

Website: guidanceresources.com, WebID = My5848i

As we continue to move forward together, the District remains committed to supporting our students, employees, and community and ensuring they feel safe and valued. Administrators will continue to monitor the local COVID-19 situation and consult with local public health officials for the Fall 2022 semester and beyond and adjust as necessary. The District will also send additional communication to all employees to address concerns and any necessary clarifications after working conditions are negotiated with our union partners.