

Dear RRCC Community,

Today is the first of a new series of weekly updates you will receive from me on our Spring Semester COVID Protocols. The purpose for these updates is to keep you informed with the details we know at this point. There are still many logistical details to be worked out but I am happy to report that CCCS has purchased a robust system, Qualtrics, to enter and track vaccination verifications as well as testing results. They expect to have Qualtrics up and running for all thirteen colleges to use in a month, in early December. I will send more information on how Qualtrics will work as we get that information.

More than ever I am asking for your continued commitment to do your part in making RRCC a healthy, safe space for our students and for your colleagues.

We continue to be in weekly contact with Jefferson County Public Health. They have been wonderful partners throughout the pandemic. We rely on their guidance as well as the guidance of the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and the CDC.

I am proud of our community and how we continue to work together to get through these challenging times. Below is some important information that will be in place for Spring semester with much more information to come in the weeks ahead.

Thank you again for your patience as we continue to keep the safety of students and employees our top priority.

Michele

- 1) Masks will still be required in all college buildings for spring 2022 semester.
- 2) You will still need to be vaccinated or test weekly regardless of whether you have had COVID-19 because:
  - Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you recover from COVID-19. Per the CDC, “data are presently insufficient to determine an antibody titer threshold that indicates if an individual is protected from infection. At this time, there is no FDA-authorized or approved test that providers or the public can use to reliably determine whether a person is protected from infection.”
  - You can read current CDC information on this topic [here](#).
  - Vaccination helps protect you even if you’ve already had COVID-19.  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html?s\\_cid=10482:vaccine%20after%20covid:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html?s_cid=10482:vaccine%20after%20covid:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21)
- 3) Antibody or serology tests are not an acceptable substitution for vaccination or testing requirements. Antibodies are made when a person’s immune system comes into contact with the COVID virus (illness or vaccination). Antibodies can protect you from getting those infections for some period of time afterward.
  - How long this protection lasts after illness is different for each disease and each person, and scientists are still learning about this with COVID-19. You can read current CDC information on this topic [here](#).

- After consultation with public health, Red Rocks Community College will not accept antibody testing as a substitution for either vaccination requirements or required regular testing for COVID-19 for unvaccinated persons.
- 4) Red Rocks Community College will require weekly PCR testing and negative test results for those employees and students who are not vaccinated. CDPHE has over 123 free PCR testing sites across the state. <https://covid19.colorado.gov/testing>
- There is currently a testing site at the Arvada Campus on Monday and Wednesdays from 7:00 am – 2:00 pm.
  - Register at [covidcheckcolorado.org](https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/22251/List-of-Jeffco-COVID-19-Testing-Sites.%20) as testing site information can change, please check this link before you make plans to go to a site without a prior registration. <https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/22251/List-of-Jeffco-COVID-19-Testing-Sites.%20>.
  - There is a testing and vaccination site at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds very close to the RRCC Lakewood campus.
- More information will be forthcoming as we finalize details for Qualtrics implementation.