LACCD BOARD REVISES POLICY TO NOW MANDATE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees approved revisions to its Board Policy 2900, adopted a month ago, to now require that all District employees and students must either be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus or get regularly tested as a condition of employment and/or to access District property in person. The changes were approved by the Board at its September 1, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board Policy does not prevent anyone from enrolling, attending or working at the District’s nine colleges or other facilities due to their vaccination status, but will help create safer in-person learning and workplace environments for students and District employees. Extensive outreach to employees and students will now begin to advise them of the changes, the new requirements and deadline for compliance.

As announced at the Board meeting, employees will have until October 18, 2021 to get fully vaccinated or provide a medical or religious exemption for approval by the District and have a baseline COVID-19 test. Any person with a District-approved exemption must still be tested at least weekly. All LACCD students who intend to be onsite, in person at any college or District facility must follow the same process.

The policy, as revised and approved, now states:

As a condition of employment and a condition to physically accessing any District building, classroom, library, gymnasium, facility, or other indoor setting, all District employees shall present proof that they have been fully vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) unless exempt for medical or religious reasons.

As a condition to physically accessing any District building, classroom, library, gymnasium, facility, or other indoor setting, all District students shall present proof that they have been fully vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) unless exempt for medical or religious reasons.

Employees and students who are granted a medical or religious exemption shall undergo regular testing for COVID-19 infection and shall produce proof of negative COVID-19 test results.

The District is working with a vendor to coordinate testing sites and operating schedules at all nine colleges that are expected to open in about two weeks. The vendor will provide testing and a secured database for the results.

All employees will need to obtain a baseline test no later than October 18, 2021. All students who intend to be in person at any of the colleges or District facilities must do the same. Employees and students who are fully vaccinated will then be able to upload their valid COVID-19 vaccination information. Once the vaccination information or a negative test is uploaded and verified, they will receive a “QR” code for display on a mobile smart device to show their eligibility to access the colleges or District facilities.

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In addition to compliance with the revised Board Policy 2900, until further notice:

- All students, employees and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, must wear masks or facial coverings while inside any college building or District facility.
- All persons planning to visit a campus or District facility must complete the symptom self-check prior to every day they intend to be onsite.

“We are following the science and the recommendations of our leading public health officials that vaccinations are the best tool to end this pandemic,” LACCD Board of Trustees President Steve Veres said. “We care about our employees and our students and their safety is our top priority.”

LACCD students continue to be eligible to receive up to $150 in incentives from the Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges to get vaccinated thanks to a generous grant donated by the Kaiser Permanente Foundation. More than 1,000 students have been vaccinated and have applied for the incentive. The incentive will remain available until the grant funding is fully distributed.

The LACCD “Colleges of Los Angeles” include: Los Angeles City College; East Los Angeles College; Los Angeles Harbor College; Los Angeles Mission College; Los Angeles Pierce College; Los Angeles Southwest College; Los Angeles Trade-Technical College; Los Angeles Valley College and West Los Angeles College.

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