



*Roxbury Community College*  
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Office of the President

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September 20, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Today, the Presidents of the Massachusetts community colleges are announcing that students, faculty, and staff at the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges must be fully vaccinated by January 2022.

The announcement comes amid a rise in the number of new cases of COVID-19 across the Commonwealth, the increased access and availability of vaccines, the Food & Drug Administration's full and pending approval of available vaccines, and CDC guidance that the COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be extremely safe and highly effective at preventing infection, severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

Simply put, the health and safety of the RCC community have remained a priority throughout the pandemic, and it is now clear that mandating the COVID-19 vaccine is required to continue providing a safe and healthy campus environment.

The first step in the implementation process is to meet with state-wide unions to bargain the impact of this decision. Our employee unions will have the opportunity to raise concerns before state-wide policy and procedures are finalized. Once impact bargaining is concluded, we will provide additional information.

The vaccine mandate does not have an impact on the [COVID-19 vaccination incentive program](#), which rewards employees and students for receiving the vaccine before the mandate goes into effect. You can expect to receive detailed instructions for participating in the incentive program later this week.

Know that this mandate applies to all RCC employees and students who enroll in in-person or hybrid classes for the spring 2022 semester. Students exclusively enrolled in online or remote classes are not required to adhere to the vaccine mandate.

If you need to schedule a vaccination appointment:

1. RCC is hosting a pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinic in the Student Commons on Wednesday, 10/13/2021, from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. [Please click here to pre-register for your vaccination appointment](#). Walk-ins are also welcome.
2. You can visit <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/> to find a vaccination location near you.

Again, additional details on the COVID-19 vaccine mandate will be released over the coming weeks. For now, please direct all questions and concerns to [COVID-19@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:COVID-19@rcc.mass.edu).

Thank you for your continued commitment to the College and our mission.

Best Regards,

Dr. Valerie Roberson  
President, Roxbury Community College