



## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

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### MESSAGE FROM DR. EARIC DIXON-PETERS

September 10, 2021

Welcome back Roadrunners,

I hope you have taken this summer to engage in activities that allowed you to rejuvenate and ready yourself for an amazing Fall 2021. As we complete our third week of the semester, we have taken precautions to ensure your safe return to online and in-person learning. I want to share important information to assist you in your success during the Fall 2021 semester.

We have posted our latest [COVID-19 plan with guidelines for Fall 2021](#) on the College website. These guidelines are subject to change, if the need arises. Below are some important points to keep in mind as you begin Fall 2021.

#### **Vaccine and mask policy**

On August 18, 2021, Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees adhered to the Acting Chancellors call for action to keep our campuses safe and unanimously approved policy that requires vaccination and mask covering for all employees and students. This includes:

- Students must submit proof of vaccination by October 16th to enroll in in-person courses.
- For students requesting medical or religious exemptions and pregnancy deferral must complete and submit the online form by October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Masks covering nose and mouth must be worn at all times indoors and outdoors while on campus
  - Face shields alone do NOT count as masks as per [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health \(LACDPH\)](#) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines
- Maintain 3 feet of physical distancing in classrooms
- Maintain 6 feet of physical distancing everywhere outside the classrooms
- No congregating in hallways, lobbies, or other indoor spaces (when class ends, leave the building or proceed to your next class)
- No congregating in groups larger than five people (all physically distanced) outdoors

#### **COVID Protocols/Student Responsibilities**

Students experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose; fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher;

new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; and new loss of taste or smell), should stay home. **DO NOT** come to campus for any reason and seek medical attention for your symptoms.

Students enrolled in in-person classes experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, must notify your instructor(s) of your symptoms immediately. The Student Affairs office will contact students to discuss the safe return and COVID-19 testing process and procedures. Students diagnosed, or who have a presumed diagnosis of COVID-19, will be interviewed for contact tracing and will be given appropriate quarantine or isolation directions.

### **Student Submission of Proof of Vaccination and Exemption**

Students can submit proof of vaccination and exemption request at <https://www.riohondo.edu/student-health-services/vaccination/#section9>. Students must submit proof of vaccination by October 16th to enroll in late start, winter, or spring in-person courses. For students requesting medical, religious exemptions or pregnancy deferral must submit forms by October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, the health and safety of our community depends on all of us doing our part by following the policies and procedures developed to keep us safe. Remember, we are all in this together. We will be sending additional information throughout the semester to ensure you stay informed.

For questions, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at [SSalcedo@riohondo.edu](mailto:SSalcedo@riohondo.edu). I hope you have a safe and rewarding semester.

Dr. Earic Dixon-Peters  
Vice President, Student Services