



## SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

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September 16, 2022

### **COVID-19 VACCINATION AND MASKING POLICY**

On September 14, 2022, the Board of Trustees suspended mandating indoor masking for all Río Hondo College students and employees, effective October 1, 2022.

#### **Masks**

Beginning October 1, 2022, indoor masking will be highly recommended, but no longer required on the Río Hondo College campus, educational centers, or off campus sites. This change aligns with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's [Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education Requirements and Best Practices](#), which was updated on August 24, 2022. The guidance reads as follows: "For the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, masking policy for all students, staff and visitors will reflect current language in the LA County Health Officer Order. At this time, **masks are strongly recommended for all persons in indoor public settings**. Well-fitting and better filtering **masks** (e.g., double masks, high filtration cloth masks, medical masks) and respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) **are highly recommended**."

According to the LA County Department of Public Health, wearing a mask dramatically decreases the chances of both transmitting and becoming infected with COVID-19. Wearing a mask protects others and reduces the risk of both exposure and infection. In order to help ensure the safety and health of the Río Hondo College campus community, the Board of Trustees highly recommends employees, students and visitors to wear highly protective masks, while both indoors and outdoors, and to get vaccinated. These are recommendations, but not requirements, to respect individual choice.

Masks are available for FREE in department and division offices.

#### **Vaccinations**

The College is also offering FREE vaccines to students every Wednesday, by appointment, at the Student Health and Psychological Services Center. The phone number for students to make an appointment is: 562-908-3438. If students submit a valid verification of full vaccination (two Pfizer or Moderna or 1 Janssen) for the first time to RHC through the student portal between June 21 and September 30, they will receive a \$200 voucher to be used at the College bookstore before December 10, 2022.

### **Testing and Reporting**

If students have symptoms, it is important they test. COVID-19 tests are available for FREE at the Student Health and Psychological Services Center, Student Services Building, Room SS230 during hours of operation. These are COVID-19 rapid result home tests. PCR and antigen testing is available on Mondays from 8 am – 2 pm in parking lot E. Report symptoms, exposure or positive status to the College via the daily pre-screen form on the RHC app. This will not only inform the College but provide the student with next steps. Contact instructor to stay current with coursework requirement.

For more information on communicable diseases or monkey pox, please visit: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov>