



September 17, 2021

Dear Students,

**Please pay close attention to this important message.**

The purpose of this communication is to provide you with important updates and reminders to our COVID-19 prevention plan. The Bon Secours Mercy Health ministry is experiencing an “alarming increase in the highly contagious Delta variant, which has been shown to cause a viral load 1,000 times higher than previous strains of COVID-19. This means it multiplies quicker in the respiratory tract, making it more transmissible. It may also be contagious earlier. As a ministry, we are seeing an increase in the number of patients with COVID-19. The number of our patients hospitalized with COVID-19 is 13 times higher now than it was at the beginning of July” (Dr. Wael Haidar, Bon Secours Mercy Health Chief Clinical Officer, email communication September 8, 2021).

There are two significant updates that I need to share with you:

- Bon Secours Mercy Health is requiring everyone to wear a medical grade mask in their facilities, unless specified differently in your clinical role for better protection. We will institute this requirement on our campus effective Monday, September 20, 2021. If you do not have a medical grade mask, faculty will have them available in your class.
- The Richmond Market of Bon Secours Mercy Health has made the decision to implement a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for all associates, providers, and students. Market leadership shared that this decision was based on firm belief, grounded in scientific evidence, that the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh any potential risks. The system policy and operational details are being determined at this time. We will share more information with you once we receive it. At this time, we do not have any information on the potential for exemptions to the requirement. To prepare for the requirement, ALL SCHS STUDENTS need to do the **following no later than noon on September 30, 2021:**
  - **DOCUMENTATION:** If you have not already done so, please submit your COVID-19 Vaccine documentation to [Admissions@schs.edu](mailto:Admissions@schs.edu). Regardless of vaccination status you will need to complete the survey.
  - **SURVEY:** Please complete the survey at the link provided.

*Failure to submit either the documentation or the survey by the deadline will result in not being able to attend clinical/practicum.*

Our college campus continues to experience a low number of reported COVID-19 positive tests. This statistic does not happen by accident, your commitment to the health of our community is allowing us

the opportunity to deliver the curriculum in the intended fashion so far this semester. Please continue to adhere to the COVID-19 prevention measures by implementing the following:

- If you need to obtain a vaccine, Bon Secours Richmond schedule is provided below this letter.
- Do NOT ignore symptoms, if you are experiencing symptoms fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, you should report this to your faculty member or Program Director. Once your symptoms have been reported, the COVID Nurse will contact the student with further instructions.
- For more information about our COVID-19 prevention strategies and protocols, please visit the College at [www.schs.edu](http://www.schs.edu).
- Follow the reduced capacity instructions in the student lounge and study spaces. Limit time in the student lounge to allow others time and space to eat.
- Clean your classroom and study area before and after use.
- Only have 4 people on the elevator at one time.
- Wear a procedure mask at all times when on campus.
- Practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet from other people whenever possible. Avoid gathering in groups unless it is for established classes and/or meetings. Use video conferencing (i.e.: Zoom, Facetime, etc.) for student meetings, studying or project work.
- Ensure you are up to date on scientific data related to COVID-19, prevention strategies, vaccines and treatments.
- Be kind to patients and with health care professionals. Listen to what people have to say; try to understand another's point of view; and come from a place of love for humankind. Offer education without judgement.

We understand that you may have many questions about the vaccine requirement. We have given you all the information that we have at this time. If you have questions about how this requirement could affect your education, please contact your Program Director to discuss your individual concerns. Thank you for continuing to do your part to keep our campus community healthy and safe.

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Location	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose Schedule	Time		2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose Schedule	
St. Mary's Hospital Room 164 Auditorium <b>Pfizer</b>	September 10, 2021 September 17, 2021 September 24, 2021	7am -12pm 7am -12pm 7am -12pm		October 1, 2021 October 8, 2021 October 15, 2021	7am -12pm 7am -12pm 7am -12pm
Memorial Regional Medical Center - Ortho Classroom (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor) <b>Pfizer</b>	September 10, 2021 September 17, 2021 September 22, 2021	730am -1130am 730am -1130am 730am -1130am		October 1, 2021 October 8, 2021 October 13, 2021	730am -1130am 730am -1130am 730am -1130am
Southside Regional Medical Center Medical Arts Pavilion <b>Moderna</b>	September 8, 2021 September 13, 2021 September 22, 2021 September 27, 2021	4pm -8pm 7am -11am 4pm -8pm 7am -11am		October 6, 2021 October 11, 2021 October 20, 2021 October 25, 2021	4pm -8pm 7am -11am 4pm -8pm 7am-11am
St. Francis Medical Center Orvieto Room <b>Moderna</b>	September 9, 2021 September 14, 2021 September 22, 2021 September 28, 2021	7am -9am 7am -9am 7am -9am 7am -9am		October 7, 2021 October 12, 2021 October 20, 2021 October 26, 2021	7am -9am 7am -9am 7am -9am 7am -9am
Rappahannock General Training Center <b>Moderna</b>	September 8, 2021 September 14, 2021 September 16, 2021 September 22, 2021	7am-10am 7am-10am 1pm-3pm 12-5pm		October 6, 2021 October 12, 2021 October 14, 2021 October 20, 2021	7am-10am 7am-10am 1pm-3pm 12-5pm
Richmond Community Hospital Conference Room A <b>Pfizer</b>	September 8, 2021	1-5pm		September 29, 2021	1-5pm
Southern Virginia Ambulatory Care Area <b>Moderna</b>	September 7, 2021 September 13, 2021 September 20, 2021 September 27, 2021	8am-12pm 8am-12pm 8am-12pm 8am-12pm		October 5, 2021 October 11, 2021 October 18, 2021 October 25, 2021	8am-12pm 8am-12pm 8am-12pm 8am-12pm