

MassBay Community College  
COVID-19 Protocols  
January 2022  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

With preserving the safety of our community, helping to stop the spread of the coronavirus, and to effectively educate our students as our paramount objectives, MassBay will return to campus for most activities in the spring 2022 semester. These FAQs are subject to change as the conditions of the pandemic evolve and the resultant federal, state, and College guidelines may change.

**What will take place on campus during the spring 2022 semester?**

MassBay will offer a robust selection of classes in all our academic academy subject areas face-to-face in the spring 2022 semester. For convenience, and to meet the needs of all students, we will also offer a significant number of classes online or remotely. Offices, including those offering student support services, will be open and available on campus once classes begin on January 18, 2022.

Many, but not all co-curricular activities will take place on campus as well. Updates and invitations regarding co-curricular activities will be shared throughout the semester.

**Are COVID-19 vaccines required at the community colleges?**

Effective January 2022, all Massachusetts community college students, faculty, and staff who will be coming to campus for work or for class(es) must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and submit verification of their fully vaccinated status to the College absent an approved reasonable accommodation. For information as to how to submit your proof of vaccination, visit [massbay.edu/immunization](https://massbay.edu/immunization).

**Why are vaccines being required at the community colleges?**

With the number of new cases of COVID-19 across the Commonwealth in unvaccinated populations, the increased access and availability of vaccines in the Commonwealth, the Food & Drug Administration's full and pending approval of available vaccines, and consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that the COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be extremely safe and highly effective at preventing infection, severe disease, hospitalization, and death, the Massachusetts community college presidents determined that COVID-19 vaccines should be required.

**What are the vaccine requirements for students?**

Students who are only taking online courses, whether full or part-time, credit or non-credit, and who will not access campus for any reason, such as instruction, advising, and/or other purposes are not required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. All other students whether full or part-time, credit or non-credit, are required to be fully vaccinated, including:

- Students with any on-campus component to their schedule;
- Students who seek to access any on-campus services; and
- Students who are required by program or activity to be vaccinated as a condition of participation (e.g. athletics, clinical placements).

**How do you define “fully vaccinated”?**

The community colleges use the [CDC definition](#) of full vaccination status, which currently provides that “[i]n general, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines; or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnsons’ Janssen vaccine.”

Any changes in the CDC’s definition of full vaccination status, including but not limited to booster shots, will be incorporated by reference into the community colleges’ requirement.

**What are the vaccination deadlines for MassBay students?**

MassBay students must be fully vaccinated by January 18, 2022. To meet this deadline is extremely important to PLAN AHEAD! Remember, there is a requirement of 3-4 weeks in between doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, plus you must account for the two weeks following your final dose.

For students to be fully vaccinated by January 18, 2022, these deadlines must be met:

*Moderna*

First Dose: December 7

Second Dose: January 4

*Pfizer*

First Dose: December 14

Second Dose: January 4

*Johnson & Johnson*

One Dose: January 4

**What are the vaccination deadlines for MassBay faculty and staff?**

MassBay faculty and staff must be fully vaccinated by January 3, 2022, absent an approved reasonable accommodation. Please see the below examples of when an individual would need to receive each vaccination to be considered fully vaccinated on January 3, 2022.

*Moderna*

First Dose: November 22

Second Dose: December 20

*Pfizer*

First Dose: November 29

Second Dose: December 20

*Johnson & Johnson*

One Dose: December 20

### **Where can vaccines be obtained?**

Access a free COVID-19 vaccine conveniently by visiting one of these three websites:

[Vaxfinder](#)

[COVID-19 Mobile Vaccine Program](#)

[Additional Vaccine Resources](#)

### **How do I submit my vaccination status to MassBay?**

Visit [massbay.edu/immunization](https://massbay.edu/immunization) for instructions.

### **How will I show my vaccination status when I'm on campus?**

MassBay introduced a new mobile app, MassBayGo, in fall 2021. In addition to enhancing our communications and community engagement, the app will be used by each student, faculty, and staff coming to campus this spring to show proof of vaccination. Search for MassBay Community College in your app store, download the app, and click on the My Campus Pass tile. Once your proof of vaccination has been verified, you will find a green checkmark in that tile, and you will be free to come to campus. Please note, your checkmark may not turn green until you are authorized to come to campus (January 18, 2022 for students, January 3, 2022 for faculty and staff).

### **What alternatives are available to students who are unable to be fully vaccinated?**

Students who are unable to be fully vaccinated may take online courses and utilize services remotely. Students may also request a reasonable accommodation and the College will engage in an interactive process consistent with applicable laws and college policy to determine if eligible for a reasonable accommodation, and if so, whether the requested accommodation is reasonable and does not create an undue burden or direct threat to health or safety. In the event a reasonable accommodation is approved, Students may be subject to additional health and safety protocols and/or be excluded from campus and/or college activities including but not limited to travel for the protection of health or safety, as determined by the College in consideration of local, state, and/or federal laws and public health guidance and/or mandates.

### **Is the vaccine required for those who have already recovered from COVID-19?**

Yes. According to the CDC, full vaccination is recommended for those who have had COVID-19 because research has not yet shown how long COVID-19 protects those from getting COVID-19 again and vaccination helps protect those who have already had COVID-19.

### **In addition to the vaccination requirement, what other precautions are in place on the MassBay campus to protect against the spread of the virus?**

- **Face coverings** are required at all times in our buildings. The only time face coverings can be temporarily removed is to take sips from a beverage or when actively eating.
- **Three feet of social distance** is required wherever possible. Signage and floor clings will be prominent to facilitate distancing; classrooms will spread chairs three feet apart; common areas will be oriented to prevent gatherings in close proximity.
- **Restricted Access.** The campuses are closed to the public, and only previously cleared MassBay students, faculty, staff, or vendors will be allowed on campus.

- **Cap on the number of students in each classroom.** MassBay is limiting the number of enrolled students in classes to ensure all students and faculty can maintain three feet of distance in all our in-use classrooms.
- **Is testing available?** Students, faculty, or staff may request a test kit once a week. More information on how to obtain a test kit will be available in the coming weeks.

### **Will students receive the same support services as before the pandemic?**

YES. MassBay is committed to student success, regardless of our current public health crisis. Student services will continue to be robust. Services in spring 2022 can be found on campus and online by visiting [massbay.edu/studentresources](https://massbay.edu/studentresources), where our experienced staff can answer any questions students may have. Beginning the first day of classes, January 18, 2022, student support services can be accessed face-to-face on campus.

### **If I am fully vaccinated, do I have to wear a face covering on campus? Do I have to test?**

At this time face coverings are required for everyone in our buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

You are not required to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing this semester, however, you may request a test kit.

### **What happens if I am exposed to someone who tested positive to COVID-19?**

Do not come to campus and call (781) 239-2222 immediately. If you've had [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19, you should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive.

### **What should I expect when I first come to campus?**

We are glad to welcome people back to campus for the spring 2022 semester. Most offices and all student support services will remain remote until the first day of classes on January 18, 2022. Please follow the signage on campus and adhere to all COVID-related policies.

### **What other changes to the campus should I expect?**

Eating is only permitted in designated areas on campus. You are expected to temporarily lift your face covering to eat, and then promptly return it to cover your mouth and nose.

Each bathroom and each elevator are limited to one person at a time.

All water fountains are shut down, water bottle filling stations are available.

A robust cleaning program will be in place.

Face coverings can be removed when outdoors where three feet of social distancing can be maintained.

### **How long will these protocols be in place?**

Until further notice. We reserve the right to adjust our protocols, policies, and procedures at any time as the pandemic evolves and as we respond accordingly.

### **Who should I contact if I have questions about MassBay COVID-19 protocols?**

Please contact Anna Pilkington, MassBay's COVID-19 Response Administrator at [apilkington@massbay.edu](mailto:apilkington@massbay.edu), or 781-239-3177.