

August 10, 2021

LCC Employees,

I would like to share a few important updates related to the current COVID pandemic.

- According to the Department of Health, COVID-19 cases in Cowlitz County began to steadily increase in early July, with the average number of cases reported each day rising from 7 for the week of July 4-10 to 36 for the week of July 22-28. The county now has the fourth highest case rate in the state. Last week alone, August 2-6, more than 400 cases were reported.
- Low vaccination rates and more contagious variants are contributing to the rise in cases.
- Yesterday, Governor Inslee announced that vaccines will be mandatory for some state employees. **This mandate does not apply to colleges and universities at this time.**
- In order to reduce potential spread on the LCC campus, we are again **requiring fully vaccinated employees to quarantine if they have been in close contact with a positive case.**

"Close-contact" is defined as within 6 feet for 15 minutes in a 24 hour period. The rules for quarantine depend on your vaccination status and align with current CDC recommendations. Please review the "[Return to Campus Guide](#)" or the "[Return to Campus Childcare Guide](#)" for more information.

If the current trend in community spread continues, more safety precautions will likely be implemented on campus such as a potential return to everyone wearing masks. Thank you in advance for understanding. We will keep everyone informed as the situation evolves.

Take care and stay well.

Nolan

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