

Brookdale Community College's COVID-19 Vaccination or Weekly Testing Policy Frequently Asked Questions (Updated 11/16/2021)

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1. *Will masks still be required on campus even if I'm fully vaccinated?*

The mask mandate will remain in effect in the Spring 2022 semester. Masks are our first line of defense against the spread of COVID-19.

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2. *Does the COVID-19 weekly testing or vaccination requirement apply to students who are taking all of their classes online?*

Students who are taking all of their classes online or via remote live formats are not required to upload their vaccination card or agree to weekly testing. However, if the student is taking a mixture of remote and in-person class or if the student needs to access a Brookdale building for any other reason, the student will need to submit their vaccination card or proof of negative PCR test to the health portal.

Adjunct instructors who are only teaching fully online or remote live classes also do not need to upload their vaccination card or agree to weekly testing unless they need to access a Brookdale location.

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3. Where can I upload my vaccination card?

You can access the health portal using any browser on a computer or mobile device at <https://brookdalecc.medicatconnect.com>. You will login using your Brookdale email address and password. If you experience any problems, email complianceservices@medicat.com.

See the attached instructions for specific directions on how to (1) upload your vaccination card to the health portal, or (2) elect to be tested weekly, or (3) document your choice to take all classes remotely.

It will take approximately five days before vaccination is verified, so it's very important that vaccination cards are uploaded right away to avoid problems that could occur due to heavy volume right before the Spring 2022 semester.

All students who are currently registered during the Fall semester of 2021 and are registered for the Spring 2022 have access to the health portal and can upload their documentation.

Those students who are not currently registered but are planning to register for Spring of 2022 will gain access to the portal within 24 hours after registering for classes and can upload their documentation at that time.

Once proof of full vaccination is verified (boosters are not required at this time), you will not be required to test for COVID-19 weekly or present proof of vaccination to anyone on campus.

If a student initially elects to take all classes remotely, but then decides to take class at a Brookdale location, the student will be required to upload their vaccination card or consent for weekly testing. Students who initially elect to be tested weekly but then switch to fully remote classes will not be required to be tested weekly unless they need to access a Brookdale location at any time.

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4. *When and where are COVID-19 vaccinations available at Brookdale?*

Free COVID-19 vaccines are available on the Lincroft campus in the CLC building near Parking Lot 4, the same location where weekly testing is available. Currently, the vaccination clinic operates on Tuesdays from 2:00pm-6:00pm. No appointment is necessary.

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5. *What vaccines are available at Brookdale's vaccination clinic?*

Brookdale's vaccination clinic on the Lincroft campus is currently offering free Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine is available for students under the age of 18 years old (and any community member as young as 5 years old). The Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccines may be selected by any student, employee, or community member aged 18 years old or older.

Free Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J booster shots are also available, but are not required.

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6. *Are boosters available at Brookdale's vaccination clinic?*

Brookdale's vaccination clinic on the Lincroft campus is currently offering Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J COVID-19 booster shots, but boosters are not required to be considered fully vaccinated.

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7. *How do you define "fully vaccinated?"*

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated when they have completed the recommended course of any COVID-19 vaccine series that has been authorized by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) or the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine.

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8. *What if I am not fully vaccinated before the start of the Spring semester?*

If you have chosen to be vaccinated but you don't meet the definition of "fully vaccinated" above by the beginning of the Spring 2022 semester, you will be asked to test weekly until you are fully vaccinated.

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9. *If I am fully vaccinated, will I be required to test weekly for COVID-19?*

No. Fully vaccinated students and employees will not be required to test for COVID-19 weekly. Testing will only be required for unvaccinated students and employees who need to access a Brookdale location.

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10. *When and where will the weekly testing take place?*

Free weekly testing will be available for students and employees on the Lincroft campus in the CLC building near Parking Lot 4 as of January 3, 2022. The contract with our testing service has been signed, but the days and times have not yet been determined. The days and times when testing is available on the Lincroft campus will depend on the number of students and employees who opt for weekly testing. This schedule will be announced prior to the start of the Spring 2022 semester.

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11. *Will Brookdale offer weekly testing at any regional location other than Lincroft?*

Free weekly testing for students and employees will be provided by Brookdale on the Lincroft campus only.

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12. *Can I test at a lab of my choice or at home or do I have to use Brookdale's facility?*

Students and employees may choose to be tested weekly at any location offering PCR testing. At-home tests and other rapid tests will not be accepted. If you choose to be tested at a location other than the Lincroft campus, you will be required to upload your PCR test results to the health portal weekly and you will be responsible for all costs associated with this testing.

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13. Will testing be free of charge to the student and employee?

Weekly testing provided by Brookdale at the Lincroft campus will be free of charge for all students and employees. While the College will provide a list of alternative testing sites, the College cannot guarantee that tests taken at a location other than the Lincroft campus will be free of charge. Students and employees who choose to be tested at sites other than Brookdale's Lincroft campus will be responsible for all costs associated with this testing.

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14. What is the procedure for weekly testing?

Students and employees who opt for weekly testing at the Lincroft campus will report to CLC building next to Parking Lot 4 during the testing site's operating hours. A testing site staff member will greet the student or employee, verify the student's/employee's identity by a unique QR code that will be assigned during the initial registration process, and administer a minimally invasive nasal swab. The student may then proceed to their classes and the employee may report their work location. The test kit will be shipped to a lab. Test results will be reported directly to the individual who was tested, as well as to the Brookdale officials who are designated to receive the test results.

Students and employees who opt for weekly PCR testing at a site other than the Lincroft campus will be required to upload their test results to the health portal by Wednesday of each week.

Test results will not be shared with anyone other than the person who was tested and the Brookdale officials who are designated to receive the test results. When students and employees test positive, the College is required to engage in contact tracing to identify any other employees or students who were considered close contacts, and the close contacts must also be informed that they came into close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19.

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15. What types of COVID-19 tests are acceptable?

FDA-approved PCR tests are acceptable. Rapid test results will not be accepted.

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16. Will there be any exemptions from weekly testing?

Unvaccinated students will have the choice to take courses remotely or test weekly. Unvaccinated employees are required to test weekly to comply with the College's Vaccine or Weekly Testing policy.

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17. Can you explain the timing of this decision? Why is the College making the decision now to implement this weekly testing or vaccine requirement?

The Delta variant contributed to increasing cases of COVID-19 in the summer which resulted in colleges across NJ, including Brookdale, implementing mask mandates for Fall 2021. On September 22 all NJ community colleges were encouraged to implement vaccine or testing requirements by the Secretary of Higher Education. The College's Board of Trustees deliberated on this topic at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting in September and gave final approval for the president to implement a vaccine or testing requirement at the end of October. The factors that weighed into this decision included a high rate of COVID-19 transmission in Monmouth County and disruptions to the learning environment caused when positive cases on campus caused classes to quarantine. The College's executive leadership team approved the vaccine or testing protocols on November 3 and the president announced the vaccine or testing requirement that same evening.

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18. If my classes are not offered online but I don't want to be vaccinated, will my classes be moved online?

Not all classes can be taught remotely. If your courses are not offered in fully online or remote live formats and you don't want to (or cannot) be vaccinated, you will have the option to test weekly in order to take your classes in person. You may also want to speak with your advisor to see if there are remote options for any of your remaining courses.

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19. Will there still be remote live classes offered in the Spring 2022 semester?

Not all courses can be offered remotely, but, for courses that can be taught in this format, remote live sections will be available in the Spring 2022 semester. We plan to offer courses in the remote live format for the foreseeable future for students that prefer this modality.

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20. If I have recovered from COVID-19 and have natural immunity but have not been vaccinated, will I still be required to have weekly testing to work or learn on campus?

At this time, the presence of antibodies as a result of recent COVID-19 infection is not one of the alternatives covered by the College's Vaccine or Weekly Testing policy. Please consult with your doctor to determine if vaccination, weekly testing, or remote learning is your best option.

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