McHenry County College – Frequently Asked Questions
→ COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement
→ Weekly Testing for Unvaccinated Employees and Students
→ Other COVID-Related Questions

Updated Wednesday, September 3, 2021

Q: I am already fully vaccinated – do I still need to be tested?
A: Weekly testing is only required for unvaccinated individuals.

However, if you have been in close contact with someone who tested positive, or you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please quickly complete the self-reporting form at https://tinyurl.com/StudentCOVIDReport (for students) OR at HRHealth@mchenry.edu (for employees) – you will receive further instructions from the MCC COVID-19 response team.

Q: What if I am unvaccinated?
A: Employees and students who are not fully vaccinated or have not received their first vaccination dose by September 5 will be required to undergo COVID-19 testing on a weekly basis. If you would like to be vaccinated, visit MCDH Vaccine Locations or Vaccines.gov to schedule an appointment at a vaccination location near you. MCC will also be providing vaccine clinics throughout the semester; this information is located in myMCC under Announcements.

Q: How much does it cost to get tested?
A: This test is free for MCC students, employees, and partners to participate.

Q: How do I sign up to get tested?
A: Please visit www.mchenry.edu/shield for instructions on how to set up an account and make an appointment. Testing links are coming soon.

Q: Are there any exemptions to getting tested?
A: If you are a student who is 100% online with no face-to-face classes, weekly testing is not required.

Q: What if I do not plan to be vaccinated AND do not want to be tested?
A: Per the Governor’s Executive Order, this is an Illinois state requirement for all higher education employees and students.

MCC Students - If you do not wish to choose either option, it might be an option for you to change your class(es) to an online learning modality. To talk with an advisor about your options, please call (815) 455-7565.
MCC Employees – Proof of vaccination or weekly testing will be a condition of continued employment.

Q: Can you tell me more about the SHIELD Illinois test you are using?
A: All information about MCC’s COVID-19 testing through SHIELD Illinois is located at www.mchenry.edu/shield.

Q: Are my testing results private?
A: You will have access to your results in a secure web portal. If you are an MCC student or employee, your results will be shared with the College for contact tracing purposes. Also, like any other COVID-19 test, your results will be shared with the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH). SHIELD Illinois strictly enforces confidentiality of all data so that your privacy is protected from unauthorized access or harm. Mandatory privacy training and other security efforts are in place to help mitigate risk. Unauthorized third parties are not allowed to use samples or access personal information of SHIELD Illinois participants.

Q: What if I am sick? What are the guidelines for when I need to stay home?
A: We encourage all employees and students to stay home if they are not well. This messaging has been consistent since the beginning of the pandemic.

If you have been exposed to COVID-19, are awaiting COVID-19 test results, and/or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, please report this information immediately to https://tinyurl.com/StudentCOVIDReport (for students) or HRHealth@mchenry.edu (for employees).

Q: If my child is ill, my child’s school closes down, or their classroom needs to quarantine, what will that mean for me (MCC student/MCC employee)?
A: MCC Students – Please work directly with your faculty on any class-related issues. MCC faculty understand the need to be flexible and supportive if you are facing COVID-19 related challenges.

MCC Employees – Administration is working on options for a parent who needs to be home to care for their child due to quarantine. We know that this is a concern shared by many working parents. While we explore options, the parent (MCC employee) is able to use their accrued sick time to be home to care for the child. We will share further solutions with employees soon. These solutions may also be available for other COVID-19 related issues.

Q: I am taking classes fully online – do I still need to be tested each week?
A: If you are a student who is 100% online with no face-to-face classes, you do not need to get weekly testing.
Q: If I am now uncomfortable about attending class in-person, can a virtual option be provided for me?
A: We understand that this is an incredibly stressful time, and we are here to support you as you navigate your learning. Please know that MCC’s campus is a safe place to attend classes. If you need to talk with someone in-person about your concerns, the Student Affairs team can help at mccstudentaffairs@mchenry.edu or (815) 479-7700.

It might be an option for you to change your class(es) to an online learning modality. To talk with an advisor about your options, call (815) 455-7565.

Q: Will I have the option to receive a Zoom link to attend my in-person class virtually?
A: If your class modality is listed as “in person”, it is a class that meets in person, on campus. With this specific learning modality, MCC classrooms do not have the technology to support both an in-person and online/virtual learning environment at one time.

Q: Am I able to get a refund at this time?
A: If you would like to talk with an advisor about changing your schedule, please call (815) 455-7565. If you wish to withdraw from a class/request a refund in relation to the Governor’s Executive Order and testing mandate, submit a [Drop/Withdraw Related to COVID-19 Testing Mandate Refund Request](#).

Q: Why can’t I work remotely or have a hybrid work schedule as I did previously?
A: As a College, MCC’s mission is providing services to students, who have overwhelmingly selected in-person as their desired mode of instruction this fall. The College is a safe working environment from which to provide our service in an in-person format. We will continue to monitor information and guidelines provided by the CDC, IDPH, and the county and will be flexible as needed, as we have over the past 18 months.

Q: I’ve already had COVID-19 – do I still need to be vaccinated?
A: Yes, either full vaccination or weekly testing will be required.

Q: Will you accept an antibody test instead of weekly testing?
A: This is not an approved test, per the Governor’s Executive Order.

Q: Will you accept an at-home COVID-19 test?
A: This is not an approved test, per the Governor’s Executive Order.