



August 18, 2021

Dear GCC Students,

I hope that you are doing well and looking forward to a new school year which is just twelve days away. We are very excited to be offering several learning options including in-person, remote, online and hybrid classes this fall semester. Our objective is to provide a safe learning environment and plenty of choices in how to accomplish your educational goals during a pandemic. As a partner in maintaining a safe learning environment, please read this entire message to learn about a critical policy change that may affect you.

Last night, following my recommendation, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a new board policy requiring that all students, faculty, and staff be fully vaccinated before accessing District facilities which include the Verdugo and Garfield Campuses. The vaccine mandate will go into effect October 31, 2021, which will allow more than ten weeks for the unvaccinated to complete the vaccination cycle.

In recent weeks, the spread of the aggressive Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus has risen to alarming levels. The Los Angeles County Department of Health and Human Services says that “the Delta variant is much more adept at finding and infecting unvaccinated individuals” and that “vaccination remains the most effective tool to reduce your risk associated to COVID-19.”

If all of your classes are taken online, you will not need to prove that you are fully vaccinated. However, if you are taking an in-person class, you must complete the vaccination cycle before October 30, 2021. Students and employees may apply for an exemption to the mandate due to ADA qualifying physical/mental disability or for religious accommodation but will be required to provide proof of a negative test result for COVID-19 each week.

If you do not intend to get vaccinated and do not apply for an exemption, do not take an in-person class. You still have plenty of learning options with more than 80 percent of our classes being offered online.

There are many details that are being worked out regarding the vaccination mandate including evidence of vaccination, how to apply for an exemption, and COVID-19 testing. Please pay close attention to your email for updates. We will post all updates to our website glendale.edu.

Please enjoy your last few days of summer break before the fall semester begins Monday, August 30. If you have not been vaccinated, do so by making an appointment via myturn.ca.gov. By working together we will make this a safe and rewarding year of learning.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Viar".

David Viar
Superintendent/President

Superintendent/President Dr. David Viar

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