

Pueblo Community College (PCC) Health Professions & Public Safety Students and Medical & Behavioral Health Students,

You are receiving this message because you are enrolled in a fall 2021 course at PCC. This information may or may not apply to you depending on your academic or certificate program, but is important for you to know if you are considering a health pathway.

PCC is proud to offer exceptional health care programs that require hands-on clinical hours in local healthcare facilities such as hospitals and long-term care facilities. PCC does not currently require COVID-19 vaccines as a condition of enrollment, but with the FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine, more clinical community partners are announcing vaccine requirements for their healthcare professionals. Further, the [Colorado Board of Health](#) has regulatory authority to implement its own vaccine requirements and rules addressing these requirements may be forthcoming. At this time, there are facilities where students complete their clinical hours that require vaccines for anyone serving in the facility due to the vulnerable populations being served. Clinical hours are required for many of our health programs.

Some places of business may recognize exemptions on the basis of medical and religious reasons, but there are clinical community partners in the healthcare industry that do not recognize exemptions (medical and/or religious) based on the need to ensure the health and safety of patients and those that serve them. PCC does not control a clinic's or a prospective employer's decisions as to acceptance of immunizations/exemptions. Unfortunately, at this time, we cannot forecast whether certain clinic's vaccine requirements and decision not to allow exemptions will change. Further, if the [State Board of Health](#) implements rules that require healthcare professionals and those working in healthcare settings to have vaccines and does not allow exemptions, the College must comply with those regulations. PCC will continue to monitor the state-wide and national health governing body's recommendations which may impact clinical sites.

Given the timing of the semester, we want PCC students to have this information and be able to make an informed decision should your program require a clinical placement. If you are enrolled in a course that requires clinical hours in a program area where vaccines are being required and exemptions are not guaranteed and you are unable to acquire a vaccination, you may want to consult with your Program Chair or Clinical Coordinator about alternatives.

While PCC does not currently mandate the COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of enrollment, PCC does encourage all enrolled students to get vaccinated. PCC is offering free vaccination clinics throughout the semester with the following scheduled dates 8/31 (2x \$20 Chipotle Gift Cards available) and 9/17 located in the bottom floor of the Student Center, with more dates to come. Students who are vaccinated by Sept 1 may enter the drawing for ten \$1000 scholarships (deadline to enter Sept 1).

Questions about your rights and responsibilities as a student? Please review PCC's [Student Handbook](#) for Policies and Procedures, including information on Civil Rights.