



# COVID-19 Return To Campus Details and FAQs

Updated 8/11/21

**Background:** In accordance with Governor Jay Inslee's [higher education proclamation](#), Bates Technical College will open for Fall Quarter 2021.

## Guiding Principles:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has not ended and will continue to evolve.
2. The college's first and main priority is the health and safety of students, employees and those who come on our campuses.
3. To adhere to Governor Inslee's proclamation while also maintaining the confidentiality of students and employees through restricting access to information.

## Requirements:

1. A fully vaccinated college means that students who attend in-person courses and employees who work on college campuses must provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, or agree to wear a mask while on campus if they choose a medical, religious or philosophical exemption.
2. If one is claiming a medical, religious, or philosophical exemption the student or employee must state their exemption request.
3. If no exemption is claimed, then individuals must verify their vaccination status, including the type of vaccination they received and the date that they received the vaccination(s), in their self-attestation.
4. Employees and students must acknowledge that they understand they may be subject to disciplinary action if their self-attestation to their vaccination status is found to be untruthful.
5. Employees and students must acknowledge that they may be required to show proof of their vaccination status by showing their CDC vaccination card, state immunization information system record, or other official documentation.
6. Employees and students who are unvaccinated must wear an approved face covering while indoors, and Bates Technical College also recommends that while outside, employees and students maintain proper physical distancing and hygiene, such as frequent hand washing.

## Fall Quarter 2021 FAQs

### What is the college's reopening plan?

- Bates Technical College is a vaccinated college. That means that all students, staff, and faculty must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Staff/Non-Teaching Faculty: By August 30, 2021, staff and non-teaching faculty will need to verify that they have been fully vaccinated unless they are claiming a medical, religious, or philosophical exemption.
- Teaching Faculty: By September 22, 2021, teaching faculty will need to verify that they have been fully vaccinated unless they are claiming a medical, religious, or philosophical exemption.
- Students: By September 22, 2021, students will need to verify that they have been fully vaccinated unless they are claiming a medical, religious, or philosophical exemption.

### Vaccination Information

Anyone age 12 and older are eligible to get the COVID vaccine.

- [Pierce County Vaccine Locations and Information](#)
- [King County Vaccine Locations and Information](#)

### Will the college be using a hybrid model (a mix of online and in-person instruction) for most instruction and labs?

- The majority of college programs will be on-campus face-to-face or hybrid instruction.
- Select programs will continue to operate fully online.

### Will the college require proof of vaccination to return to campus and/or enter buildings?

Yes, students, staff and faculty will need to verify that they have been fully vaccinated unless they are claiming a medical, religious, or philosophical exemption.

- The college is in the process of developing a process to track submitted verifications.

### **If I already had and recovered from COVID-19. Do I still need to get a COVID-19 vaccination?**

Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Studies have shown that vaccination provides a strong boost in protection in people who have recovered from COVID-19. Learn more about [why getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection](#) than getting infected.

If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Experts are still learning more about how long vaccines protect against COVID-19. CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

### **What is the face-covering requirement on campus?**

If you are a student or an employee who is not fully vaccinated or has chosen an exemption, you must wear a mask while on any of our campuses. Visitors and vendors, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask while on any of our campuses.

Mask wearing is optional only for those who are fully vaccinated.

Masks are not required outdoors.

### **What is the social distancing requirement?**

As a vaccinated college, there is no requirement for social/physical distancing. However, the college encourages three feet social distancing in consideration of others.

### **Will the college continue cleaning and disinfecting standards that were implemented for COVID-19?**

The facilities and operations department will continue to perform daily sanitizing and disinfection cleaning throughout the college.

**Will the college continue to require employees and students to complete SmartSheet Check-In and Check-Out forms for contact tracing?**

No, effective August 2, 2021 students, staff, faculty, vendors and visitors will no longer need to fill out SmartSheets before coming on campus or leaving campus.

**Will the college be fully open to the public? If so, what are the safety protocols that outside agencies, vendors and visitors need to follow?**

Vendors and visitors will continue to check in upon entering the building.

**Does reopening the college mean everyone will have to return to work on campus?**

In an effort to support the needs of our college community, employees will be required to return to campus with some exceptions. Employees should check with their supervisor for clarity.

**I'm a new student, where do I go on my first day?**

Check Canvas and your Bates email, or contact your instructor for specific directions on where to go and what to do. You may find specific information on the [Lab Hours webpage here](#).