

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: **Health Protocols Change July 1, Building Named**

Date: June 23, 2021

Good morning. As you have likely heard, the Governor of Maryland is [amending the state's orders](#) on face coverings. Beginning July 1, 2021 people are not required to wear face coverings in public, with certain exceptions for public transportation, medical facilities, and K-12 schools.

Montgomery County intends to follow suit, and Montgomery College will do the same. Beginning on July 1, people on MC campuses and worksites will not be required to wear face coverings indoors or outdoors. This change was the result of careful consideration by the MC Return-to-Campuses Coronavirus Advisory Team, in keeping with the greatly [improved metrics in the County](#).

This does not mean that face coverings are prohibited. Anyone is free to wear a face covering in any of our facilities, and it is encouraged in spaces where social distancing is not feasible. People who must engage students one-on-one in small offices are free to request that coverings be worn. I hope that we will all be responsive to such requests since we don't know who is vaccinated and who is not. Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also conveyed that [coverings are not necessary](#) for people who have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. There are some medical conditions in which vaccination is discouraged. It is strongly recommended that people who have not been vaccinated continue to wear face coverings, as they are still at risk for serious illness from the coronavirus.

Another change to MC health protocols is the health assessment, which is currently required on a daily basis. The senior administrative leadership team has approved an extension of the daily health assessment for those coming to campus until September 1. At that time, we will reassess based on conditions and communicate any changes. People who experience symptoms identified in the assessment should not come to campuses. They may take sick leave or request remote work for such days, at their supervisor's discretion.

The above changes to protocols will be updated on the College's website under [Return to Campuses](#) and in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) sections. The College continues to closely monitor local health conditions and respond quickly to any concerns. The next student forum on returning to campuses is scheduled for [June 28](#). Registration is required. Submissions to the students' FAQs can be sent to studentaffairs@montgomerycollege.edu.

On a separate note, I want to thank everyone who joined the Board of Trustees meeting on Monday. I was overwhelmed with gratitude at the naming of a building, the Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard Student Affairs and Science Building on the Germantown Campus. I know my father would be proud to see our shared name on a building that serves students. Thank you to everyone who made this a reality.

Until next time, be well.