

BTC Fully Vaccinated Campus Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated as of July 28, 2021

Dear BTC Students,

On July 12, 2021, Governor Inslee issued Higher Education Proclamation 20-12.4. Under the provisions of that proclamation, BTC is becoming a Fully Vaccinated Campus. That designation is not a metric, but rather a category of guidelines for campus operations. As part of these guidelines, all employees and students coming to the BTC campus must be vaccinated or assert an exemption to vaccination; also, as part of these guidelines, masking and social distancing rules are loosened. The Governor's goal is to increase the vaccination rate in the college community, and BTC encourages all students to get vaccinated. You can find a vaccination site easily at vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov

This FAQ will help you to understand the new guidelines. We also need to understand that things may change as time passes. The FAQ will be updated if and when processes change.

We will also need to be understanding and compassionate with our classmates and colleagues: everyone is responding to this pandemic in the best way they know how, and not everyone is in the same place. Some people are more cautious than others; some no longer wish to wear a mask. People who are vaccinated may still wear masks and want to stay distant; people are unvaccinated for all sorts of reasons. None of us knows the full story about anyone else.

BTC's strategic plan includes the following goals under Campus Community & Culture:

- Cultivate an environment that contributes to employee engagement and satisfaction
- Strengthen college commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusiveness
- Unify the campus community through collaboration and open communication
- Maintain a welcoming, safe, and accessible environment

It is our expectation that every member of the BTC community will treat others with respect, consideration, and an extra amount of compassion in these particular times. This means we should treat others on campus how they wish to be treated, to the extent possible. If somebody is masked, consider masking up to help them feel comfortable and safe – it's an easy way to support each other.

We hope this FAQ will help you navigate the process as we re-enter full campus operations.



Office of the President

Walter Hudsick, Interim President

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What are the rules around masking?

A: Fully vaccinated students who have fully completed the online attestation form are not required to mask on campus, although they may wear a mask if they so choose. Students and employees who have asserted a medical, religious, or philosophical exemption from vaccination are required to wear a mask at all times on campus.

Q: Will unvaccinated employees or students be prevented from coming to campus?

A: Individuals who assert an exemption of vaccinated status may come to campus so long as they comply with masking requirements.

Q: Should students ask unmasked individuals about their vaccination status?

A: No.

Q: Can vaccinated people wear masks if they choose?

A: Yes, of course! Anyone may choose to continue to wear a mask.

Q: Employees can require students to wear masks in meetings in their offices; can students require employees to do so in the same situation?

A: Students can request that employees wear masks in meetings but cannot require employees to do so.

Q: What are the consequences for not wearing a required mask?

A: Individuals who fail to comply with masking requirements will be subject to discipline under the Student Conduct Code.

Q: What rules apply to visitors and guests?

A: Visitors and guests must comply with both the Secretary of Health's face covering order and any applicable L&I workplace safety requirements. This applies to guest speakers, advisory committee members and other industry partners, and prospective students, among others. Currently, these guidelines allow for fully vaccinated visitors to go with or without a mask.

Q: Is proof of vaccination required or can self-attestation information be verified?

A: The self-attestation form does not require proof of vaccination to be entered, only the dates that shots were received. Immunization status may be verified with the Washington State Department of Health. Assertion of exemption status does not require any documentation.

Q: Is there any distinction between medical, philosophical, and religious exemptions?

A: Medical exemptions are granted to those with documentation on file including allergies, pregnancy, or other conditions the CDC considers contraindication for the COVID-19 vaccination. Students and employees may also object to immunization because of conflicts with their sincerely held religious beliefs and practices. Philosophical, moral, or conscientious objections are personal. An example might be that vaccines' FDA emergency approval use - some may not feel comfortable getting the vaccine until it is authorized for normal use. The College will receive exemption applications in good faith, not questioning the reason, and there is no operational difference across the three categories of exemption.

Q: Will the campus know what percentage of employees and students are vaccinated?

A: Yes, the aggregate information about vaccination rates among students and employees will be made available within the FAQ in a future update.

Q: What are the consequences for misrepresentation of vaccination status?

A: Individuals who provide false information on the vaccination self-attestation will be subject to discipline under the Student Conduct Code of Conduct.

Q: What are the social distancing requirements now, and are they different for masked and unmasked people?

A: All social distancing requirements are removed under the new protocol; this applies to all individuals on campus equally.

Q: Are we still checking temperatures, completing daily health attestations, and checking in at building entrances?

A: The daily health attestation will be discontinued, no daily health checks will be performed, and building check-in stations will be removed.

Q: Do the new guidelines mean students can be on campus outside of class time and use the common areas?

A: Yes, campus is fully re-opening! The library and tutoring center are currently ramping up on-campus access, and the Campus Center second floor study areas have been open for some time. Students can utilize campus as always, subject to the new protocols.

Q: How will COVID cases on campus be reported and tracked?

A: The COVID Response Team is reviewing the current protocol for reporting and tracking. A new procedure will be published as soon as it is finalized.

Q: Will online students be required to complete an attestation?

A: An attestation is required of any student or employee who will or may come to campus for any reason. For students, this includes accessing services such as the bookstore, tutoring, or financial aid as well as classes.