



BTC COVID-19: Fully Vaccinated Campus Guidelines

Updated: July 28, 2021

Bellingham Technical College takes the health and safety of our employees, students and visitors very seriously. Even with increased availability of the vaccine against COVID-19, we all must remain vigilant in continuing to control the outbreak, especially as variant forms of the disease threaten unvaccinated communities. Governor Inslee has approved Institutions of Higher Education to transition to new guidelines under revised Proclamation 20-12.4 issued July 12, 2021 as the state reframes its pandemic response strategy to encourage vaccinations and reach community immunity.

BTC encourages all students and employees to become fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Proclamation 20-12.4 allows greater flexibility of operation for Institutions of Higher Education that are categorized as Fully Vaccinated Campuses. Bellingham Technical College will operate as a Fully Vaccinated Campus.

The following guidelines were developed to meet the requirements set forth in Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-12.4 from July 12 for Higher Education.

1. All BTC students and employees who participate in or attend courses, operations, or other activities in person at BTC locations must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, subject to any medical exemptions required by law and any religious or philosophical exemptions.
 - a) Please note: Allied Health programs with clinical requirements may require vaccinations and recognize only those medical exemptions required by law. Participation in Allied Health programs will be subject to those restrictions, if any.
 - b) For purposes of this protocol, a person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use by the FDA (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after they have received a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use by the FDA (e.g., Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen).
 - c) For purposes of this protocol, a person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that is listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. All BTC students and employees who participate in or attend courses, operations, or other activities in person at BTC locations must verify their vaccination status or attest to any medical, religious, or philosophical exemptions.
 - a) Vaccinated students and employees must verify their status via an online attestation form that can be accessed at btc.edu/vaccinationstatus.
 - i. The self-attestation of vaccinated status must include the date(s) when each dose of the COVID-19 vaccine was administered.
3. Students and employees must verify their exemption status via the same online attestation form that can be accessed at btc.edu/vaccinationstatus.

Bellingham Technical College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, genetic information, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment. All Inquiries regarding compliance with access, equal opportunity and/or grievance procedures should be directed to the Associate Director of Human Resources, Bellingham Technical College, 3028 Lindbergh Avenue, Bellingham, WA98225, or call (360) 752-8354 or 752-8515/TTY.

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4. Students and employees are attesting to the truthfulness of their self-attestation and will be subject to disciplinary action if their self-attestation is determined to be untruthful.
5. BTC and/or state and local public health officials may require further verification of the student's vaccination status, including observing the student's CDC vaccination card, state immunization information system record, or other documentation.
6. Fully-vaccinated BTC students and employees who participate in or attend courses, operations, or other activities in person at BTC locations are not required to generally wear face-coverings.
 - a) Specific programs may require masking for all participants for some or all of their classroom, lab, or field-based learning experience.
 - b) Employees may require students to wear masks during meetings in employee offices.
 - c) Anyone, vaccinated or not, may choose to continue to wear a mask.
7. All BTC students and employees who participate in or attend courses, operations, or other activities in person at BTC locations and who claim an exemption to the vaccination requirement must wear a face covering in accordance with the Secretary of Health's face covering order and comply with any applicable L&I workplace safety requirements.
 - a) Each employee or student required to wear a mask will provide their own face mask as appropriate.
 - b) For people claiming exemptions to the Secretary of Health's face covering order, other safety measures will be put into place to protect the safety of the exempt people and others. If gloves, goggles, or face shields are required, BTC will provide those.
8. Every volunteer, contractor, and visitor to BTC locations must comply both with the Secretary of Health's face covering order and with any applicable L&I workplace safety requirements.
9. Previous social distancing guidelines on BTC locations have been removed.
10. Building check-in is no longer required and check-in stations have been removed.
11. The daily health attestation is no longer required for students or employees.
 - a) Bellingham Technical College employees and students are strongly encouraged to stay home if they are sick. They are also encouraged to leave if they become ill while on campus.
 - b) If a student or employee has been in close contact with someone who has been confirmed with a positive case of COVID-19, they should use the CDC guidance on how to self-monitor and when to contact their health care provider. If an employee develops symptoms of acute respiratory illness, they must seek medical attention and notify their supervisor as soon as possible. If a student develops symptoms of acute respiratory illness, they should notify their instructor as soon as possible.



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- c) If a student or employee has a sick family member at home with COVID-19, they should notify their supervisor/instructor as soon as possible. The student or employee must then follow the isolation/quarantine requirements established by the Washington State Department of Health.
- d) Any employee or student developing a temperature of 100.4°F or higher while on campus is considered to have a fever and will be sent home. Employees and students are to report to their supervisor/instructor if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell).
- e) If an employee or student develops symptoms while they are not on campus, they should not return to campus until they have been evaluated by a healthcare provider. Employees should contact their supervisor directly by telephone or Human Resources by telephone at 360-752-8354 and students should contact their instructor(s). Instructors notified by students about potential or positive cases should report this information immediately to the Safety Director. Failure of employees or students to comply will result in employees/students being sent home during the emergency action.
- f) If an employee or student is confirmed to have a COVID-19 infection, Bellingham Technical College will inform fellow employees/students of their possible exposure to COVID-19 on campus but maintain the confidentiality of the infected person as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Bellingham Technical College will instruct fellow employees about how to proceed based on guidelines from the Whatcom County Health Department and the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Community related exposure.

12. Cleaning procedures will comply with Department of Health and L&I guidelines .

- a) Employees and students are required, at a minimum, to wash or sanitize their hands at the beginning and end of each class period. This can be done in classroom and workspaces or at nearby designated bathrooms. Employees and students must leave their workstations to wash or sanitize their hands regularly, before and after going to the bathroom, before and after eating and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol can be used.
- b) Information will be posted in all locations hosting on-campus instructional activities recommending hygienic practices approved by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- c) Disinfectants will be available to employees and students throughout instructional locations. Cleaning supplies will be frequently replenished by Facilities. The cleaning supply bucket includes disinfectant, and disposable paper towels.
- d) Faculty and students will clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in their offices/classrooms/labs, shared tools, machines and other equipment with disinfectant supplies provided by Facilities.
- e) Facilities will clean and disinfect high-touch shared spaces to include restrooms, doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, etc.