For Immediate Release: contact: Date: August 9, 2021
Rick Baum, Michael Lyon, and Madeline Mueller.
Press Conference on Safely Re-Opening CCSF
Monday, August 16, 12:30 PM, in front of Conlan Hall, Ocean Campus
Rick Baum: rickbaum@gmail.com, 510-654-1713, or
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HEAT Demands City College of SF Administration Adopt and Share COVID Safety Rules.

With increased concern over the highly infectious COVID delta variant and the August 2 re-imposition of mandatory COVID precautions, HEAT demands that the City College of San Francisco (CCSF) Administration adopt two COVID Safety Rules outlined in the attached .

HEAT, “Higher Education Action Team,” was formed two years ago to keep City College of San Francisco as a Community College and to expand educational opportunities especially for working-class and lower middle class communities and for those interested in life-long learning.

HEAT demands a vaccine mandate for CCSF, as 29 other Community Colleges have done, including Los Angeles and Sacramento. (See attached documentation at bit.ly/HEAT-COVID) On June 15, and again on July 25, CCSF Administrators said they did not intend to impose a student or employee vaccination requirement. On July 27, CCSF’s Interim Chancellor Dianna Gonzales emailed the CCSF Trustees that they would receive an update “including the possibility of a vaccine mandate” on August 26. August 26 is two weeks after classes begin, and two months late for students who could have been fully protected before classes begin. Instead, Administrators have said students and employees will require facial coverings and social distancing. But as HEAT's Madeline Mueller wrote, "Yes, CCSF is implementing mask mandates, and with monitors at every building checking masks, as the Administration has proposed, could they also check vaccination status? A reasonable vaccination mandate should be do-able. There are three Walgreens within a mile of the CCSF main campus where students quickly could get free walk-in COVID vaccinations. Or perhaps the Mayor's newly-announced vaccination team could visit CCSF sites as classes begin?"

HEAT demands safe buildings for CCSF. Details on CCSF's compliance with CDC mandates have not been released to the faculty, students or staff, including ventilation and physical plant issues which have been problematic for years, like painted-shut windows and heavily-used rooms that are frequently too cold or too hot. Few have been able to enter buildings. This lack of transparency is of significant concern since school is starting on August 14th and there is a surge in COVID cases.

HEAT is concerned that the lack of adequate COVID safety rules and clear, open discussion of safety preparations will discourage some potential students from returning to in-person classes this Fall. As HEAT's Rick Baum asked CCSF Trustees, "Would you be comfortable going home to loved ones whose health and well-being might unnecessarily be put at risk because of a failure of CCSF Administration to institute reasonable policies that minimize threats to peoples' health?"

Money should not be an issue since the college received over $50 million in COVID relief funds and has access to $845 million in facilities bond funds.

CCSF has a mask requirement, but current expert opinion is that non-vented N95s are really necessary for safety from the Delta variant. CCSF's building monitors could provide them with COVID funds.

The COVID safety controversy occurs in the context of 10 years of attacks on City College budgets and operations by the State and CCSF’s Trustees and top administration. This year the proposed elimination of over 160 full-time faculty positions (on top of the hundreds of part-time positions already cut) and reductions in many programs were averted only by substantial cuts to faculty salaries and the scheduling of over 25% fewer classes than before the pandemic.

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HEAT's COVID-19 SAFETY POLICIES

The Higher Education Action Team (HEAT) has concerns about the health and safety of all people returning to CCSF's campuses. We have set forth what we consider two policies listed below that we view as key to minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

We recognize that conditions and how to address them are constantly changing. Modifications in the future may be warranted.

We are also concerned that many potential students may not enroll in classes that meet in person without our two policies being instituted and publicized as soon as possible. That would deprive them of their right to an education.

For the health and safety of the CCSF community, HEAT calls on the CCSF Board of Trustees and Administration to institute these policies as soon as possible:

1. All people on campus are required to be vaccinated with an exception for people with health issues and a doctor's note advising against being vaccinated. These people must show proof of regular testing for Covid-19.

2. Based on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention standards, the administration must prove that all buildings being used have proper airflow, ventilation, and are continuously and properly cleaned.

Documentation for HEAT's Recommendations

Recommendation 1 "All people on campus are required to be vaccinated with an exception for any person with a health issue and a doctor's note advising against being vaccinated. These people must show proof of regular testing for Covid-19:"

Many colleges across the country have instituted a vaccination requirement for all people on campus, including 56 California colleges and universities. At least 29 of California's in-person Community Colleges now have some form of vaccine requirement, including Los Rios (Sacramento) Community College District and Los Angeles Community College District. (EdSource, 8/5/2021) These include mandates at all UC campuses, all California State University campuses, without waiting for full FDA approval. It also includes many other schools, including Stanford and the San Diego Community College District. (Current FDA vaccine approval is on an emergency basis.) (Chronicle of Higher Education, 6/28/2021)

All Community Colleges can legally impose vaccination requirements, according to Marc LeForestier, General Counsel of the [State] Community College Chancellor's Office.

Acting [State] Community College Chancellor Daisy Gonzalez has urged local community college districts to adopt vaccination mandates. (EdSource, 7/27/2021)

There are three Walgreens, each about a mile from the CCSF Ocean campus, which provide thoroughly-vetted full walk-in free vaccinations with resident staff able to handle any adverse reactions. One is also funded to do free COVID testing. In addition the Mayor's new traveling vaccination team is available by calling 628-652-2700.

The City of San Francisco requires all City employees to be COVID-vaccinated without waiting for full FDA vaccine approval. (SF Chronicle, 7/27/2021) California requires State employees to have vaccination or weekly testing. (SF Chronicle, 7/26/2021) A Federal employee vaccine mandate is expected to be announced Thursday, July 29. (CNN, 7/27/2021) New York City requires proof of vaccination or weekly testing. (NPR, 7/26/2021)

On June 15, and again on July 27, CCSF said it did not intend to impose a student or employee vaccination requirement. However, on July 27, Acting CCSF Chancellor emailed the CCSF Trustees that they would receive an update "including the possibility of a vaccine update mandate" on August 26, two weeks after classes begin, and two months too late for vaccines to protect students as classes begin. (CCSF HR emails are at end of this packet.)

Recommendation 2 "Based on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention standards, the administration must prove that all buildings or rooms being used have proper airflow, ventilation, and are continuously and properly cleaned."

CCSF's Human Resources Department 6/15/2021 email to employees read, in part, "While almost all restrictions are rescinded, for institutes of higher education, SFDPH [SF Department of Public Health] refers to state and federal guidelines regarding any restrictions to being on campus." (See Human Resources email at back of this packet.)

CDC's "Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)" updated June 4, 2021, says even for IHEs Where Everyone is Fully Vaccinated, IHEs should continue to follow cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation recommendations, including routine cleaning of high touch surfaces and shared objects as well as maintaining improved ventilation." The description of "Improved ventilation" includes: "Increase the introduction of outdoor air; Use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows; Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and provide acceptable indoor air quality for the current occupancy level for each space; Rebalance or adjust HVAC systems to increase total airflow to occupied spaces; Improve central air filtration; Ensure restroom exhaust fans are functional; Generate

clean-to-less-clean air movement; In non-residential settings, run the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after the building is occupied."

California Public Health Department's COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year (6/4/2021) advises under "Ventilation":

> **Contact a mechanical engineer, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) design professional, or mechanical contractor in order to evaluate your ventilation system in regard to the ASHRAE guidance. (**American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers)
>
> If opening windows poses a safety or health risk (e.g., by allowing pollen in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to persons in the facility, consider alternatives. For example, maximize central air filtration for HVAC systems by using filters with a minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) of at least 13.
>
> Consider installing portable high-efficiency air cleaners, upgrading the building's air filters to the highest efficiency possible, and making other modifications to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in classrooms, offices, and other spaces.
>
> If not able to properly ventilate indoor instructional spaces, outdoor instruction is preferred (use caution in poor air quality conditions).

New York City public school COVID protection measures for its 56,000 classrooms, as described in Chalkbeat (7/9/2027), include:

> Two HEPA-rated air purifiers per classroom, already bought.
>
> Any room that does not meet our stringent safety standards, including ventilation, is not used for instructional purposes until it's repaired,
>
> Custodians have been given CO2 monitors to measure carbon dioxide levels, an indicator of lack of fresh air.

Email sent by CCSF Human Resources Department, June 15, 2021

Tue 6/15/2021 5:19 PM

Dear Community,

Last Friday, Governor Newsom officially announced the state's *Stay-at-Home-Order* lifted and the county tier system was officially retired today, Tuesday, June 15. The state is fully reopening. Additionally, the City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) issued an Omnibus Rescission of health orders and directives related to the pandemic, also effective June 15, 2021. While almost all restrictions are rescinded, for institutes of higher education, SFDPH refers to state and federal guidelines regarding any restrictions to being on campus.

We will continue to work with individual departments and all employee groups to return employees to campus consistent with state and federal guidelines. City College will be using a phased return to in-person operations. During this time, facilities will continue making required adjustments to buildings and classrooms for adequate ventilation and traffic flow as required by OSHA. A phased in approach will also allow time for the College to comply with state and federal guidelines. Furthermore, City College's plans for a phased return to in-person operations is consistent with data reviewed from recent surveys of students and employee groups.

For example, current CDC guidelines for institutions of higher education make distinctions between institutions with fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff, and those institutions without a fully vaccinated population. At this time, City College does not intend to impose a vaccination requirement on students or employees so we will require facial coverings and social distancing. Even if we were to require vaccinations, there are logistical issues that must be worked through before implementing such a policy.

While mask and distance requirements remain in place, City College does plan to have an expanded level of in-person instruction in Fall 2021. At the moment, 30% of our scheduled classes will be in-person. The College's focus for in-person instruction are those classes where students engage in hands-on learning. In-person instruction will occur in subjects across the curriculum and at several college locations.

If you have any questions, please refer them to your immediate supervisor.

Sincerely,

Human Resources Department

Email sent by CCSF Human Resources Team, July 27, 2021

From: CCSF Distribution Email <ccsfdist@ccsf.edu>
Date: 7/27/21 5:56 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "'ccsf@cloud.ccsf.edu'" <ccsf@cloud.ccsf.edu>
Subject: An Important Message on COVID Updates

Dear Community,

The current situation with the Delta variant emphasizes how the COVID pandemic is a fluid and evolving situation. We will continue to proceed with caution.

Our caution has been effective. While we have had infections among employees and students, we have not had an outbreak at the College. Our contact tracing has not tied any of these infections to an in-person activity at the College.

Per the CDC mandated guidelines for higher education, we will continue requiring social distancing and mask wearing inside all of our facilities and locations, regardless of vaccination status. We also continue to restrict building access to College facilities. For the Fall we have planned for a mostly remote delivery of services.

As for a vaccine mandate, there are several things in the works, such as uniform guidelines from the state Chancellor's office. Please access the responses from our own employee and student surveys conducted late spring semester and next steps to collect information regarding current vaccination status, at the top of our COVID updates page.

Finally, at the August 26th Board of Trustees meeting we will be sharing updates from the Return to Campus workgroup, including the possibility of a vaccine mandate and how such a mandate can be operationalized. At this time, the College is not requiring proof of vaccination and the Fall in-person classes scheduled will continue as planned.

Please stay safe by getting vaccinated. You can find out more information about getting the COVID vaccine here.

Regards,

The Human Resources Team