

COVID POLICY Update for Summer 2021

We are planning a slow, phased-in return to campus over the summer quarter. We are planning to offer only six summer classes in a face-to-face manner. Three of the six summer classes are NEI Certificate courses (electives), and three of the six classes are required courses. All required courses will also have online sections allowing students and faculty a choice.

CAMPUS SURVEY RESULTS

We surveyed our faculty, staff, and students between April 27-May 4 regarding COVID vaccination. 131 students, 28 faculty and 21 staff responded. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Survey results indicated the following:

- 64.29% of the faculty would teach on ground only if all students attending their class were required to be vaccinated.
- 56.49% of students would attend on ground classes only if all students in the class were required to be vaccinated.
- 82.14% of our faculty are already vaccinated or plan to be.
- 78.63% of our students are already vaccinated or plan to be.
- 71.43% of our staff are already vaccinated or plan to be.
- 10.71% of our faculty do not intend to be vaccinated.
- 16.79% of our students do not intend to be vaccinated.
- 23.81% of our staff do not intend to be vaccinated.

On May 5, the Executive Council reviewed our survey results. Since faculty may choose to teach online, which does not require vaccination, and students may choose to take their required courses online, and students may see clients at TNCC via distance therapies, it was clear that we could make a decision in the best interest of the health of the community.

COVID VACCINE & CAMPUS LIFE

To continue to maintain a healthy campus community, it is strongly recommended for all staff, students and faculty who are able to receive a COVID vaccine to do so. It is understood that some individuals have medical and/or religious reasons for opting not to receive a COVID vaccine. For that reason, the following policy takes into account personal choice and voluntary vaccination as well as a vaccination requirement for those faculty and students who choose to teach or take classes on ground this summer. The exemption for faculty and students who will not be vaccinated is the choice to study or teach online and to see clients via distance.

What matters most to us as Southwestern College/New Earth Institute/Tierra Nueva Counseling Center is our dedication to healing and service by upholding ethical standards that maintain our commitment to providing a healthy workplace, clinic, and educational programs for all students, clients, community members, staff, and faculty.

We realize students, staff, and faculty have different COVID health risks based on the work they do. The following policy has been adapted for each group. For example, faculty and students in on-ground face-to-face classes share space with each other for extended periods of time during class (3-4 hours). Whereas most staff are not required to be in prolonged contact with others to complete their job duties and responsibilities.

This was not an easy decision for the Executive Council, and we are aware that there are many different health situations, belief systems, risk levels, opinions, feelings, and still so many uncertainties. In the face of this uncertainty, we listened to our survey results, and have agreed to the following temporary 2021 Summer Campus COVID Policy, which goes into effect on June 18.

2021 SUMMER CAMPUS COVID POLICY

- 1. Students who choose to study on-ground this summer, and faculty who choose to teach on-ground this summer will be required to show proof of vaccination.**
2. Students, staff, and faculty who are not vaccinated are still welcome onto campus with the following guidelines (there is no change here to what we have been doing):
 - We ask that you complete the COVID questionnaire indicating that you do not have any symptoms (or a recent positive test), and to your knowledge you have not been in contact with anyone with symptoms or a positive test.
 - If you do test positive, we ask that you quarantine and do not come to campus until you are symptom-free for ten days.
 - We ask everyone to continue to wear a mask and follow physical distancing guidelines both indoors and outdoors.
 - If you need to use classrooms, common areas, and/or the art studio, please use the hand sanitizer and anti-viral spray cleanser placed there for you and wipe down any surfaces after use.
 - Please sign in when you enter any building on campus. The sign-in sheets are by the door. This is so we can reach you for contact tracing if needed. Sign-in sheets will be kept in the front office.
 - Following these campus guidelines, you are welcome to come to campus and may utilize campus resources, sit in the gardens, or walk in the labyrinth.

Students

- a. For required courses, students may opt to either study online or on ground this summer if the course is offered on ground. All core required courses are available online. Please note that elective courses (Certificate program courses) are offered EITHER online or on ground. This is clearly indicated in the Summer Course Schedule.
- b. If you plan to study on ground this summer, you are required to be vaccinated. You may choose to study online instead, and then there is no vaccination requirement.
- c. If you enroll in an on ground class, please bring your vaccination card to class the first day to show your faculty. Faculty can note this in the attendance record on the first day.

- d. Masks will continue to be required indoors on campus in the library, front office, student lounge, and other common places, even for those who are vaccinated.
- e. Physical distancing will be maintained on campus per CDC guidelines.
- f. In classrooms because everyone is vaccinated, students and faculty are not required to wear masks.
- g. Classrooms will utilize anti-viral, anti-microbial air filter systems, hand sanitizer, and over the summer all doors and/or windows can be open when possible and appropriate for greater ventilation.
- h. On ground classes may also utilize outdoor spaces for instruction as appropriate.

For **field-based activities**, such as internship, practicum, and the Wilderness Fast:

- a. Students, staff, and faculty must follow the vaccine protocols of the host organization, institution, agency, and/or tribe where the field-based activity is occurring.
- b. This includes following the guidelines at TNCC when working on-site.

Faculty

- a. Faculty may opt to either teach online or on ground.
- b. Faculty who teach on ground this summer are required to be vaccinated.
- c. Masks will continue to be required indoors on campus in the library, front office, student lounge, and other common places, even for those who are vaccinated per CDC guidelines.
- d. Physical distancing will be maintained per CDC guidelines.
- e. In classrooms because everyone is vaccinated, students and faculty are not required to wear masks.
- f. Classrooms will also utilize anti-viral, anti-microbial air filter systems, hand sanitizer, and over the summer doors and/or windows can be open when possible and appropriate.
- g. Masks will continue to be required indoors on campus even for those who are vaccinated.
- h. Physical distancing will be maintained per CDC guidelines.
- i. Classrooms will also utilize anti-viral, anti-microbial air filter systems, hand sanitizer, and over the summer doors and/or windows can be open when possible and appropriate.
- j. On ground classes may also utilize outdoor spaces for instruction as appropriate.

Staff

- a. All staff are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated, it is understood that for medical and/or religious reasons, some staff may choose not to be vaccinated.
- b. Staff who do not need to be on campus to successfully complete their job duties and responsibilities may continue to work from home.
- c. Staff who need to be on campus to successfully complete their job duties and responsibilities, but who are not receiving the COVID vaccine should continue to

wear masks both indoors and outdoors when working in proximity to others. They should maintain physical distancing.

Fall Quarter

The 2021 Summer Campus COVID Policy will be reviewed in July. In early August we will provide clarification for fall quarter and the coming academic year. We are aware that CDC and state mandates can change, and we will continue to comply with federal and state health mandates and guidelines.

Our Decision-making Process

In addition to reviewing our survey results, we researched what higher education institutions in New Mexico and across the nation were deciding. We also reviewed legal opinions and our state government position regarding COVID vaccination.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Filemyr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President Ann Filemyr, Ph.D.