



North Hennepin
Community College
A member of Minnesota State

Engaging students, changing lives

February 5, 2021

Dear Colleagues and Students:

These are ever-changing times. We know there are a number of hurdles to overcome; collectively we will accomplish the Chancellor's directive and guidance by focusing our efforts on these two priorities:

- **To safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of our faculty, staff, and students**
- **To enable students to progress toward their educational goal**

POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

This past week, we had one student and no employees test positive with no additional exposures. Our best defense continues to be handwashing, mask wearing and social distancing. Please remember your mouth and nose need to be completely covered to be effective.

PREVENTION & VACCINE GUIDANCE

- If you gather this weekend to cheer on your favorite Super Bowl team, the Minnesota Department of Health advises you to stay home, keep your group small and remember to social distance.
- Minnesota Management and Budget stated that employees should use sick leave for appointments to get the vaccination and for any time off should side effects arise.
- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) stated once people are vaccinated, they still must wear mask/PPE, social distance and quarantine if exposed to someone who has tested positive.

SAVE THE DATE FOR MDH INFO SESSION

On Friday, February 26, 12-1pm, Cynthia Kenyon, Epidemiologist at Minnesota Department of Health and liaison for the Higher Ed COVID-19 Response Team, will be hosting an informational session for NHCC employees about COVID-19 and the vaccine. Please send any questions by Monday, February 22 to victoria.deford@nhcc.edu. She will host a student session on March 5. Both sessions will be recorded and shared.

SCREENING TOOL UPDATE

Starting February 21, 2021, per MDH's recommendation, the following question will be added to the screening tool: *Do you live with anyone that has had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 24 days?*

NEXT OPEN FORUM

The next COVID-19 open forum is scheduled for Friday, March 5, 2021.

Better Together,

Victoria DeFord, Human Resources Director

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