

From: Jeff Mackay
Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 8:42 PM
To: McMinnville Students, Portland Students
Subject: COVID Updates

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Team has been meeting weekly to review the rapidly changing state of COVID in our communities and on our campuses. We continue to work with the Oregon Health Authority and local health departments to examine the data and to recommend appropriate courses of action. Below is a message that was in the [Linfield Ahead](#). **Note the booster requirement, in particular.**

I encourage you to continue to read the Linfield Ahead when it is published on Monday and Thursday and to check the [COVID Web Site](#) if you have questions.

Be well and wash your hands,

Jeff Mackay

Dean of Students

He | Him | His ([Learn more here.](#))

900 SE Baker St. A490 | McMinnville, OR 97128-6984

503.883.2436 | [Student Affairs](#)



Letter from the COVID-19 Response Team to the Linfield Community

Booster shots now required and more COVID-19 changes

As we prepare for the return of large numbers of faculty, staff and students to our campuses in the spring semester, we wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the steps you took to keep us safe in the fall. We implemented a vaccine mandate, we wore masks, we followed pandemic protocols in our classrooms – and, together, we made it through the semester.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Linfield has worked closely with the Oregon Health Authority and county-level health departments to ensure our campuses are following the right protocols and making the best data-driven decisions about safety and well-being for us all. We are continuing to do that now.

Effective immediately, Linfield will follow the guidance of the CDC, OHA and county health authorities in shortening the recommended time for isolation following a positive test. Students and employees with COVID-19 should be under strict isolation for five days and – if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (fever-free with no fever-reducing medicines for at least 24 hours) – follow that with five more days of modified isolation. This replaces the 10-day mandate for strict isolation. Details about “strict isolation” and “modified isolation” are available on the university’s COVID-19 page.

Quarantine policies, for those who had close contact with a COVID-positive person, will be in effect only for those who are unvaccinated. No sooner than five days after exposure, those persons can take a PCR COVID-19 test. If the test comes back negative, they can be released from quarantine.

In addition, effective February 7, Linfield will require all students and employees to receive a booster shot as soon as they are eligible. Those who already had an accepted exemption as part of Linfield’s vaccine policy do not need to resubmit documentation for a new exemption. Members of the Linfield community can request an exemption for the booster shot even if they received the primary vaccine doses. Booster exemptions forms will be available shortly. Anyone who would like to receive a booster shot can get one at the Student Health Center in McMinnville or at one of the booster clinics that will be hosted on both campuses.

We will use the same processes to document boosters for students and employees that we used for vaccinations in the fall. More information about the policy, and steps to upload your updated vaccination card, are available at linfield.edu/covid-vaccine.

Linfield remains committed to providing in-person education on our campuses, which includes the added considerations around housing and dining in McMinnville. The university also remains committed to the safety of everyone in our community and will continue to monitor the situation and take steps to promote public health whenever possible. Please remember that [all students and employees should be wearing N95 or KN95 masks, or double masking](#) with at least one layer of disposable surgical mask, when indoors.

Please continue to read Linfield Ahead every Monday and Thursday for updates and guidance, and let us know at covid19ert@linfield.edu if you have questions or concerns. As a group of students, faculty and staff, we will do our utmost to be responsive and helpful to questions you might have about what is clearly an evolving situation. Remember, also, that anyone who has symptoms – regardless of whether they were exposed to a sick person – should get tested and follow the protocol.

Thank you for your continued help and vigilance.

Regards,

COVID-19 Emergency Response Team

[Read on the Linfield website.](#)