



From President Tim Sands: New requirements align with executive action

Dear Virginia Tech Faculty and Staff:

I hope you're having as smooth a return to campus as Sunday's burst of winter weather will allow. Over these last few days, it's been great to see so much excitement among students and faculty about being back and beginning the spring semester at Virginia Tech. You made this possible, and I greatly value the work you do.

Over the weekend, Virginia's new governor, Glenn Youngkin, issued several executive orders and directives as part of his first day in office. Among those, Executive Directive 2 (<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/ed/ED-2---Executive-Branch-Employees.pdf>) impacts the application of certain COVID-19 policies to our classified employee workforce. To avoid differential treatment of employees in similar roles, all Virginia Tech employees will be included in this alignment and will no longer be required to be vaccinated, report their vaccination status to the university, or participate in mandatory testing.

These requirements are in accordance with Presidential Policy Memorandum 321 (<https://policies.vt.edu/assets/PPM%20321.pdf>) for faculty and staff and 320 (<https://policies.vt.edu/assets/PPM%20320.pdf>) for students. Testing will continue to be offered to employees on a voluntary basis. Masking policies remain in place, and all COVID policies (<https://ready.vt.edu/>) remain in full effect for students.

We continue to strongly encourage all employees to be vaccinated and get a booster dose as soon as they are eligible, and to report their vaccination status to the university. Vaccines, including boosters, remain our best protection against COVID-19 and are especially important for public health. We are fortunate that our university community has already achieved a level of immunity that positions us as well as possible to fully maintain operations through the semester.

Adapting to change, staying flexible, and communicating transparently have been key to our successful operation through this pandemic to date. Thank you for your patience and understanding

as we continue to work together to deliver on our commitment to a fulfilling, in-person spring semester at Virginia Tech.

Tim Sands,
President

From President Tim Sands: Welcome to a new semester and new year at Virginia Tech

To the university community,

Welcome to our spring semester and our Sesquicentennial year! This year, 2022, is a great year to be a Hokie, as we reflect on our history and look forward to a year of unique opportunities and experiences. Faculty and staff, thank you for all you've done to ensure a successful start to the semester. Students, I look forward to seeing you on our campuses across the commonwealth. I know there will be challenges for all of us. Please make use of the resources and information available on the Virginia Tech Ready site at <https://ready.vt.edu/faq.html>, take care of yourself, and do your best to take support each other.

It's exciting to see all the progress we've made on projects such as Holden Hall, the Data & Decision Sciences building, the Corps Leadership and Military Science building, the Innovation Campus, and the Virginia Tech Foundation's Gilbert Street building, with construction about to begin on Hitt Hall.

We are also energized by remarkable support from our alumni, partners, friends, as the Boundless Impact Campaign (<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/01/campaign.html>) surpassed the \$1 billion milestone.

There is much more to talk about as we begin the year. I hope you will join me at Moss Arts Center tomorrow at 1:30 pm, in-person or virtually, for the State of the University Address (<https://vt.edu/state-of-university.html>). If you are coming in person, don't forget your Hokie ID and a mask.

Great things lie ahead for 2022 and beyond.

Let's go Hokies!

Tim Sands,
President

Vaccination, booster, and testing program for students remains in place for 2022 spring semester; employees no longer required to participate in program

Virginia Tech has begun its 2022 spring semester fully committed to the in-person experience while remaining flexible for changes and challenges our community may face. Because of a new Executive Directive from Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Virginia Tech has expired Presidential Policy Memorandum 318 (<https://vtx.vt.edu/notices/2022/01/president-policy-318.html>) and has issued two new policy memoranda to reflect changes to university policy.

To comply with the governor's Executive Directive Number Two (<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/ed/ED-2--Executive-Branch-Employees.pdf>) issued Jan. 15, To avoid differential treatment of employees in similar roles, all Virginia Tech employees will be included in this alignment and will no longer be required to be vaccinated, report their vaccination status to the university, or participate in mandatory testing.

Testing will continue to be offered to employees on a voluntary basis. Virginia Tech employees are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated and to report their vaccination status to the university.

These recommendations are now in accordance with Presidential Policy Memorandum 321 (<https://policies.vt.edu/assets/PPM%20321.pdf>).

All COVID vaccination and testing policies will remain in effect for students.

As announced on Dec. 28, 2021, the university is requiring COVID-19 booster shots within 14 days of eligibility for all students. Students who are now eligible now for a booster are required to upload their updated vaccination card as soon as the booster dose is received. Students who have not yet uploaded booster certifications will be subject to random surveillance testing.

Those who are not yet eligible for boosters are required to receive the booster as soon as they are eligible and to upload their updated vaccination card as soon as the booster dose is received. Procedures remain in place for students and employees to request medical and religious exemptions. Those with approved existing exemptions do not need to request an exemption for the booster requirement. Unvaccinated students will continue to be tested weekly.

These recommendations are in accordance with Presidential Policy Memorandum 320 (<https://policies.vt.edu/assets/PPM%20320.pdf>).

2022 State of the University

The Virginia Tech community is invited to join President Tim Sands as he delivers his sixth State of the University Address on Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the Moss Arts Center. The live stream is available here: <https://vt.edu/state-of-university.html>.

Public health panel discussion scheduled for Jan. 20

Join Virginia Tech public health experts as they discuss planning and the return to campus for the spring 2022 semester, Thursday, Jan. 20 at 9 a.m.

The panel will consist of Frank Shushok Jr., vice president for student affairs; Bryan Garey, vice president for human resources; Mike Mulhare, assistant vice president for emergency management; Linsey Marr, Charles P. Lunsford professor of civil and environmental engineering and expert in the airborne transmission of infectious disease; and Molly O'Dell, adjunct professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences, who served as the lead of the pandemic response for the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts.

The conversation will be accessible from the Virginia Tech homepage.