

## Information on mask use for Virginia Tech students and employees

In alignment with Governor Ralph Northam's Executive Order 72 ([https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-72-SEVENTH-AMENDED-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Nine-Easing-of-Commonsense-Surge-Restrictions-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-72-SEVENTH-AMENDED-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Nine-Easing-of-Commonsense-Surge-Restrictions-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf)), Executive Order 79 ([https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-79-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Ten-Ending-of-Commonsense-Public-Health-Restrictions-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-79-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Ten-Ending-of-Commonsense-Public-Health-Restrictions-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf)), and new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on masks (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html#vaccinated>), students and employees at Virginia Tech who are fully vaccinated do not have to wear masks in most indoor settings.

Those who are unvaccinated are strongly encouraged to make an appointment for vaccination unless there is a medical or religious exemption. Those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks in indoor settings.

The exceptions for which masks are still required are:

- Riding Blacksburg Transit or other forms of mass transportation;
- Visiting or working at Schiffert Health Center.

Where there is a conflict between occupational-specific guidelines and this notice, the CDC guidance for specific industries and occupations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/workplaces-businesses/specific-industries.html>) should be followed.

Beginning May 28, Virginia Tech will align with the Governor's Executive Order 79 ([https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-79-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Ten-Ending-of-Commonsense-Public-Health-Restrictions-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-79-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Ten-Ending-of-Commonsense-Public-Health-Restrictions-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf)), which further relaxes all distancing and capacity restrictions and removes all limits on gathering sizes.

All members of the Virginia Tech community who are not yet vaccinated are strongly encouraged to do so. Public health officials have stated that the vaccines are the best way to protect oneself and

the community from COVID-19. Governor Northam has summarized the situation this way: "The message is clear: Vaccinations are how we put this pandemic in the rearview mirror and get back to being with the people we love and doing the things we have missed."

The university will share updates on any related changes and as state directives are updated, Virginia Tech will review and align, as appropriate, with state and federal guidelines. Any university-specific exceptions will be identified such as those above. Guidance on vaccinations and testing for the fall semester will be provided in early June.

Learn how to get your shot at [Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov) or call 1-877-VAX-IN VA. From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## New River Health District announces mobile vaccination clinics

The Virginia Department of Health's New River Health District, in coordination with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and other supporting partners, has announced the dates and locations of its first week of mobile vaccination clinics.

These mobile clinics will offer free COVID-19 vaccines to those age 18 and up in a series of smaller and more local clinics, primarily in rural and underserved areas where vaccine access can be challenging. They are designed to reach unvaccinated Virginians at times and places that are closer and more convenient.

These mobile clinics will offer the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, thus eliminating the need for a mobile clinic to have to return to a particular area for second-dose shots. For more information about the vaccine, please talk to your healthcare provider or visit [www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/191/2021/05/JJInformation.pdf](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/191/2021/05/JJInformation.pdf)

To find a vaccination site, visit [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov) or [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org). You can learn more about the vaccine, its safety and answers to frequently asked questions at VDH's website and CDC's website.

- Thursday, June 3: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Dublin Baptist Church, 100 Hawkins St., Dublin, VA
- Sunday, June 6: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Timberlake Building, 120 North Main St., Pearisburg, VA
- Monday, June 7: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Narrows Volunteer Fire Department, 133 Center St., Narrows, Virginia,

## Hokie Wellness to offer REVIVE! Opioid Overdose Emergency Response Training this summer

The opioid epidemic is a public health crisis and has been in the forefront of the news for a few years now. Although the current pandemic remains an emergency, the risk for overdose does not decrease, and in fact, typically increases during times of stress and crisis.

Any person, no matter their age, income, or any other demographic, can experience and develop an addiction. Knowing how to respond to an opioid overdose can save someone's life and might help them access needed resources for recovery! Come learn more about opioids, addiction, and how to respond in an emergency by taking a "REVIVE!" training with Hokie Wellness. You will receive a REVIVE response kit and Narcan (Naloxone), the opioid reversal drug, FREE of charge. More information and instruction for use of Naloxone is provided during the training.

Register now for training through Hokie Wellness at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054eaeae22a7ff2-campus1>.

- June 16, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Virtual (Zoom)
- June 29, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., McComas Hall
- July 29, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Steger Hall Conference Center

## Employees invited to sign up for Hokie Wellness Summer Outdoor Challenge

After a year of navigating challenges and stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, people are looking for ways to nurture their mental health and build in more time for self-care activities. Thankfully, warm weather is here, bringing with it opportunities to enjoy time outside.

Spending time outdoors has been shown to relieve stress and anxiety, improve mood, and boost feelings of happiness and well-being. Those who spend time outside may also find that their physical well-being is improved as a result of the many natural avenues for movement in outdoor environments.

Hokie Wellness invites employees to sign up for the Summer Outdoor Challenge, a 9-week program designed to help participants enjoy the many benefits of spending time outdoors while competing for a challenge prize. Employees may sign up to compete as part of a department team, or as an individual.

From Monday, June 14, to Friday, Aug. 13, participants will log minutes spent outdoors. At the conclusion of the challenge, ¼ zip Outdoor Challenge pull-overs will be awarded to the team with the highest average number of hours per participant as well as the individual with the highest number of hours overall. The top 200 finishers will receive a challenge T-shirt.

To sign-up, please submit an interest form (<http://www.tinyurl.com/VTSummerOutdoorChallenge>) by Monday, June 7. Registrants will receive an email with challenge instructions by Friday, June 11. Please note: Employees signing up as part of a team will need to have a team name to provide on the interest form. Team size is limited to 15 participants; however, departments with more than 15 employees who wish to participate as a team may form multiple teams. For more information or questions, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu).

## Virginia Tech recognizes Juneteenth holiday to be observed on June 18

The 2021 General Assembly established Juneteenth as a holiday for state employees (§2.2-3300, Code of Virginia, as amended). This year, the state will observe Juneteenth on Friday, June 18, 2021 because the holiday falls on a Saturday. The General Assembly's action applies to classified staff and Virginia Tech's university staff.

On March 17, President Tim Sands announced in Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 311b (<https://policies.vt.edu/assets/PPM%20311b.pdf>) that the university will be closed on June 18 and classes will be canceled in observance. This is a paid holiday for all eligible faculty and staff.

Virginia Tech joins the Commonwealth of Virginia in recognizing the significance of June 19, 1865, the day the last enslaved Americans learned that they had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been signed more than two years earlier.

Specific information related to leave reporting will be available in the monthly notice from the Leave Team for the impacted period. For additional questions, please contact your department's HR representative or the HR Service Center at [hrrservicecenter@vt.edu](mailto:hrrservicecenter@vt.edu) or 540-231-9331.

## Recreation facilities open for summer

Recreational Sports facilities are now open and operational for the summer months. Facilities include:

- McComas Hall Gym is open seven days a week on our summer hours schedule and is accessible to employees who have purchased a recreation membership. Pre-registration for exercise time slots will not be required during the summer.
- The Rec Sports Field House is open Monday through Friday and is accessible to employees who have purchased a recreation membership.
- The Venture Out Center will be open for recreational bouldering and summer gear rentals.

Outdoor facilities that are open to the public include the Washington Street Tennis Courts, Prairie Quad Fitness Park, Disc Golf Course, Golf Course, and SRA Fields. Rec facilities will be closed on May 31 and July 3-4. Learn more at <https://recsports.vt.edu/>.