

## COVID-19 VACCINE STATEMENT as of 2/28/24

At this time, Dutchess Community College Nursing program is not mandating the COVID vaccine, however, **we strongly encourage students and instructors to stay up-to-date by receiving the COVID-19 vaccine** as clinical facilities are constantly changing their requirements and we need to be prepared when these changes occur. If a student/faculty member should choose not to be vaccinated with the current COVID vaccine or any other vaccines, they are still required to care for clients with various communicable disease.

Be aware that nursing students/faculty may care for or be exposed to patients with various illnesses that may be preventable with vaccinations. These may include but are not limited to COVID, RSV, and Influenza. If a student/faculty member should choose not to be currently immunized with the current COVID vaccine, please note that illness and/or absence from clinical may result. This may jeopardize a student meeting the requirements for clinical success or meeting the required minimal number of clinical hours needed for graduation. Students and faculty are not excused from caring for patients with various communicable illnesses. If at any time during the program the COVID vaccine becomes mandated, the student/faculty will be required to stay up to date with the current vaccine to remain in the DCC nursing program. Keep in mind, each clinical partner agency sets its own requirements for students/faculty. Students who choose not to comply with the clinical partner agency COVID-19 vaccination requirement may face serious delays toward degree completion. Because of the complexities of arranging clinical placements and the likely increase in clinical sites that require COVID-19 vaccination, College staff will not be able to rearrange clinical placements for students who refuse or are unable to meet a clinical agency's vaccination requirement. Failure to meet clinical education outcomes will hinder students' ability to complete their degree program.

Successful completion of clinical-based learning is a requirement of the DCC Nursing program, mandated by ACEN accreditation, SUNY, NY State Office of Professions and licensure boards. Maintaining the standards of the nursing program and having the students graduate from an accredited nursing program provides them with the greatest opportunity for gainful employment and success. This is of vital importance to Dutchess Community College and to our community.