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Section Number:	30	Section Title:	Institutional Health
Policy Number:	30.55	Policy Name:	COVID-19 Testing and Surveillance Policy
Approval Authority:	COVID-19 Task Force	Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
Responsible Executive:	Maria Senior Leadership Team	Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
Responsible Office:	Administration	Approval Date:	January 19, 2022

1. General Statement on Maria College Policy

Maria College formally adopts, issues, implements, and updates policies, and maintains them in its web-based policy library. Individuals responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining (including revising and/or rescinding) policies must adhere to the Maria College policy on Formulation, Issuance and Maintenance of Maria College Policies. Once approved, policies reside on the Maria College website. Faculty, staff, students and visitors are required to follow policies that apply to their respective roles.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all members of the Maria College community, including faculty, staff, students, and visitors. This policy responds to guidance from NYS Department of Health and CDC Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education. SPHCON students, faculty, and staff are regulated by a separate policy managed by SPHP.

3. COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement

Maria College requires all faculty, staff, and students (except those with a college approved religious or medical exemption), to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine was added to the list of other required immunizations. All students must submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination status or an approved exemption before the first day of classes prior to each semester. The COVID-19 vaccine booster is required for all eligible faculty, staff, and students as of January 18th, 2022. Individuals ineligible at this time, will be required to fulfill this requirement within 10 days of eligibility.

- a. Every individual will be required to show proof of vaccination through their ShareMy. Health account.
- b. All unvaccinated individuals with a Maria College approved exemption are required to wear a mask on campus, adhere to social distancing guidelines, and undergo weekly COVID-19 testing.

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Weekly testing requirements for individuals with a Maria College approved exemption can be completed utilizing the Maria College testing location.

- c. All individuals granted an approved Maria College exemption from the booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine we need to follow the same guidelines as unvaccinated individuals with an approved exemption.

3. Providing Vaccinations

- a. Maria College provides COVID-19 vaccine series, boosters, and testing for all members of the Maria community on campus and free of charge.
- b. Please refer to the Maria College webpage for updates on dates and times.

4. COVID-19 Testing Policies, Quarantine, Isolation, & Contact Tracing

A. *If feeling ill (symptomatic) regardless of vaccination status:*

- i. Must contact COVID-19 Care Coordinator
- ii. Must obtain a COVID-19 test from a formal testing site and submit the results to your Share My Health account
 1. If COVID-19 rapid test negative, PCR may be required. Individuals may only return to campus/ clinical activities with approval of COVID-19 Care Coordinator and be symptom free.
 2. If COVID-19 test positive please see Section C.

B. *Exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual:*

- i. If fully vaccinated (up to 6 months from 2nd dose of Pfizer/ Moderna, 2 months from J&J) OR have received booster dose
 1. Wear a mask around all individuals for 10 days
 2. Rapid test on day 5 post exposure
 - a. If negative, continue to wear a mask around all individuals for 10 days. Testing required if symptoms begin during the 10 days.
 - b. If positive, see section C.
- ii. If unvaccinated or greater than 6 month from 2nd dose of Pfizer/ Moderna, or greater than 2 months from J&J and no booster dose
 1. Quarantine for 5 days, COVID-19 test required on day 5
 - a. If negative, resume activities, wear a mask around all individuals for 10 days
 - b. If positive, See section C.

C. *COVID-19 Positive Test Result*

- i. Provide contact tracing information including contacts and activities within 48 hours prior to symptoms or positive test results (if asymptomatic)

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- ii. Fully isolate at home for 5 days, where day 0 is the day of symptom onset or (if asymptomatic) day of collection of positive test
- iii. At the completion of day 5, if asymptomatic or if symptoms are resolving, isolation can end with the following criteria:
 - 1. Fever free for greater than 24 hours, absence of cough, sneezing, congestion
 - 2. Continue to wear a mask around all individuals for 10 days total
 - 3. Complete a COVID-19 rapid test before returning to campus or other Maria College activity
 - a. If rapid test negative, may resume activities
 - b. If rapid test positive, continue with another 5 days of isolation, for a total of 10 days
- D. The testing for unvaccinated individuals or individuals eligible, but without a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine with a college approved exemption will be mandatory and will be monitored via the shareMy.Health app. These individuals will need a COVID-19 test within 7 days of each campus access or off campus Maria College related activity.
- E. Individuals the Maria College COVID-19 Coordinator identifies as requiring testing based on risk assessment using current CDC guidelines.
- F. Employees or students with household members that test positive for COVID-19 including children will need to consult with the COVID-19 coordinator prior to returning to campus or Maria College affiliated activities. Quarantine and testing may be required.
- G. Please be sure to reach out to the COVID-19 Coordinator, prior to travel out of state for guidance and anticipation of returning to campus activities.
- H. Surveillance Testing- Surveillance testing will be at random if deemed necessary by Maria College, regardless of vaccination status. Surveillance testing procedure will be offered on campus at Maria College. This process is subject to change.
- I. All students participating in clinical, fieldwork, or off campus activities as a Maria College student will be required to participate in surveillance testing. Testing, instructions, and guidelines will be provided by Maria College. This process is subject to change. Documentation of a negative test will need to be uploaded to share my health or to the COVID-19 Coordinator before being allowed to participate in clinical, fieldwork, or any off campus activity as a Maria College student.
- J. All guidance for isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing related to Maria College activity will be informed by CDC guidelines through the College's COVID-19 Coordinator and if necessary the appropriate County Health Department.

6. COVID-19 Testing at Maria College

- a. Maria College will provide all required testing to students, faculty, and staff
- b. Please refer to Maria College webpage- COVID-19 Guidelines for testing information and how to schedule a testing appointment on campus.

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Definitions

- a. **SARS-CoV-2 (Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2)** is the causative agent of COVID-19.
- b. **COVID-19** is a mild to severe respiratory illness that is transmitted chiefly by contact with infectious material (such as respiratory droplets) or with objects or surfaces contaminated by the causative virus, and is characterized especially by fever, cough, and shortness of breath and may progress to pneumonia and respiratory failure.
- c. **Close Contact** is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated, regardless of vaccination status.
- d. **Delta Variant**- Defined by the CDC as a variant of concern. A variant of concern has evidence of impact on diagnostics, treatments, or vaccines, along with evidence of increased disease severity, and evidence of increased transmissibility (CDC, 2021).
- e. **Omicron Variant**- Defined by WHO as a variant of concern (WHO, 2022).
- f. **Fully Vaccinated**- Defined as two weeks after receiving 2 doses of the Pfizer or Moderna series, or one dose of the Janseen vaccine.
5. **Symptoms** are defined as fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, or vomiting, or diarrhea (CDC, 2021).

HIPPA and FERPA Compliant Communication and Documentation

- All testing attestations and related documentation will be communicated and stored in a HIPPA compliant manner.
- All testing, contact tracing, and COVID-19 related communication will be managed by the College's COVID-19 Coordinator in a manner that is HIPPA and FERPA compliant. This includes communications with the NYS and local health departments and other members of the campus community.
- All guidance for isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing related to Maria College activity will be informed by CDC guidelines through the College's COVID-19 Coordinator and if necessary the appropriate County Health Department.

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