



MINUTES

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022

Via Zoom Webinar

The complete minutes may be accessed on the
Santa Monica College website:

<https://www.smc.edu/administration/governance/board-of-trustees/meetings.php>

BOARD OF TRUSTEES	SPECIAL MEETING
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT	August 16, 2022

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Monica Community College District was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022. The meeting was conducted via Zoom Webinar.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONS

- CALL TO ORDER – 5:03 p.m.
Dr. Louise Jaffe, Chair - Present
Barry Snell, Vice-Chair - Present
Dr. Susan Aminoff - Present
Dr. Nancy Greenstein - Present
Dr. Margaret Quiñones-Perez - Present
Rob Rader - Present
Dr. Sion Roy - Present
Catalina Fuentes Aguirre, Student Trustee - Present

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- #1 Rescinding Requirement of Evidence of COVID-19 Vaccinations for all Students and Employees
- #2 Academic Personnel

IV. ADJOURNMENT – 5:28 p.m.

There will be a special Board of Trustees (closed session) on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 5 p.m. to conduct the annual evaluation of the Superintendent/President.

The next regular meeting of the Santa Monica Community College District Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6 p.m. (5 p.m. if there is a closed session). The meeting will be conducted via Zoom Webinar.

MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1**

SUBJECT: **RESCINDING REQUIREMENT OF EVIDENCE OF COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES**

SUBMITTED BY: Superintendent/President

REQUESTED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees rescind its August 3, 2021 Resolution Directing the Superintendent/President to Require Evidence of COVID-19 Vaccinations for all Students and Employees.

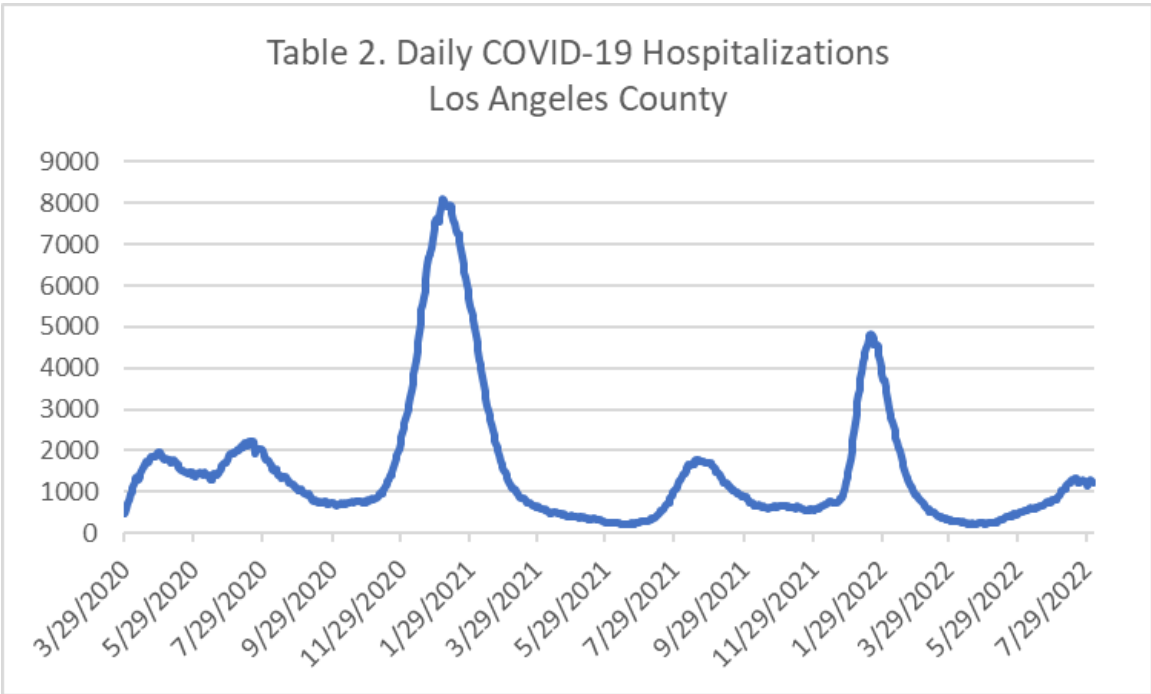
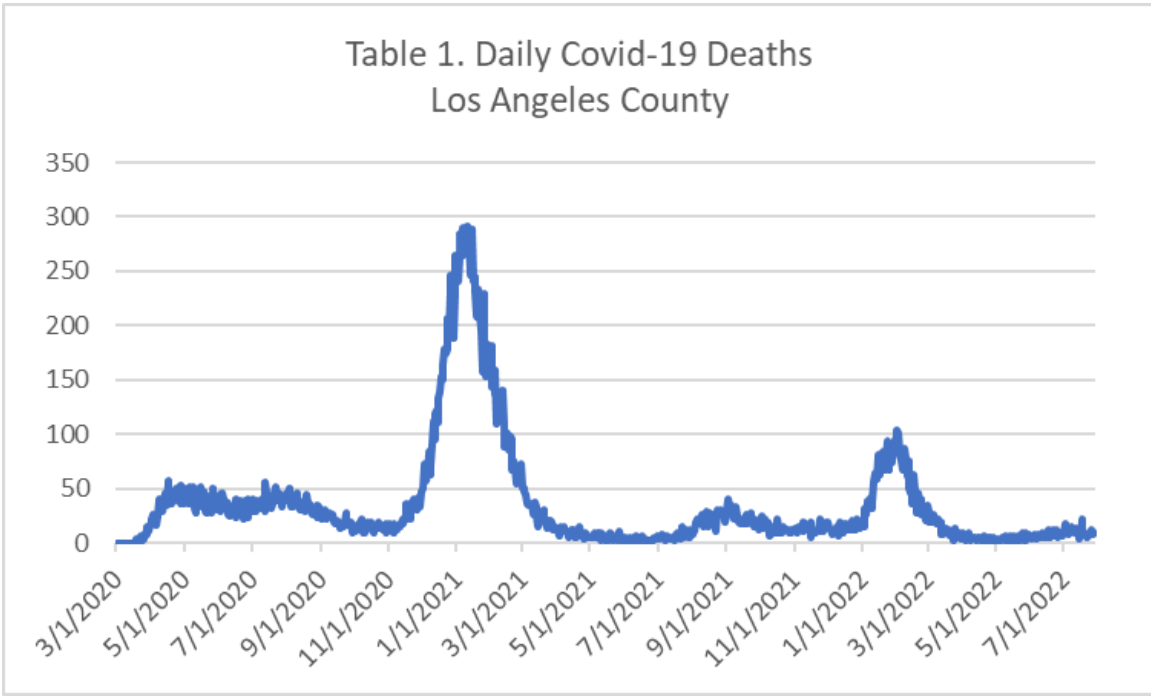
SUMMARY: Throughout the pandemic, Santa Monica College has taken a multiprong approach to protect the College community consistent with its core educational mission. Prior to the availability of vaccines, the College relied upon the use of personal protective equipment to prevent infection (e.g., masks) and a variety of environmental controls (e.g., enhanced cleaning) along with reducing in-person activities.

On August 3, 2021, as the College moved to expand its on-ground presence in Fall 2021, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent/President to implement a COVID-19 vaccination program. The vaccination program was implemented on August 4, 2021, in accordance with Board direction. Since its initial approval, the vaccination program has been modified on five occasions to respond to changing circumstances.

The program was adopted to promote access to on-ground classes and services. Given the current dynamics concerning COVID-19, the College's vaccination program has become an obstacle to student enrollment and no longer advances all of the purposes for which it was adopted.

Relaxing of Restrictions Throughout the Country

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and public health agencies have scaled back restrictions over the last year based on reductions in the impacts of COVID-19 infections. The diminishing impact of COVID-19 is reflected in Los Angeles County data. Table 1 shows daily deaths since the inception of the pandemic and Table 2 shows daily hospitalizations. The tables reflect the various surges throughout the pandemic. So far, Los Angeles County has experienced three Summer/Fall surges and two Winter surges. Each Summer/Fall surge resulted in less deaths and hospitalization than the prior one. Likewise, the 2022 Winter surge resulted in far fewer deaths and hospitalizations than in 2021.



As a result of the improving situation, made possible by widespread vaccination, COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed, including vaccination requirements.

Among the school systems rescinding vaccination requirements is the Los Angeles Community College District. Effective May 4, 2022, LACCD rescinded the requirement that new and continuing students provide proof of vaccination to access campus. Other districts have taken similar action, including San Diego Community College District starting with Fall 2022 enrollment.

Given Widespread Vaccination Coverage, a Vaccination Requirement Is Not a Required Mitigation Tool at this Time

COVID-19 vaccinations remain an important tool for protecting individuals from serious illness or death. Through a variety of efforts, including vaccine mandates by public agencies and private employers, Los Angeles County has now achieved a high level of vaccination. When the College adopted its vaccination program in August 2021, 61% of eligible Los Angeles County residents were vaccinated. Since then, vaccinations have become available to children and over 80% of all County residents have now received at least one vaccine dose.

Unlike the situation when the vaccination program was adopted, vaccination currently has less effectiveness in preventing infection. The current COVID-19 variant is vaccine resistant and many individuals who are fully vaccinated have contracted and spread COVID-19. Although no longer providing a high level of protection, vaccinated individuals do have lower risk of becoming infected than unvaccinated individuals. For example, during the January 2022 surge, infection rate was 3.7 higher for unvaccinated individuals than vaccinated and boosted individuals. The most recent data from Los Angeles County Public Health indicates that on July 14, 2022, the rate was 1.6 higher.

The length of vaccine effectiveness and the need for one or more boosters make this a difficult program to administer. For example, what constitutes up-to-date vaccination varies from individual to individual.

It is also difficult to continue to maintain a vaccination requirement as other institutions remove their requirements. Currently, most public places in Los Angeles County can be accessed without showing proof of vaccination. Students enrolling at the College from high schools that do not require COVID-19 vaccinations seemed confused about vaccination requirements and have turned to other institutions without a vaccination barrier.

Other Mitigation Measures Can Protect the College Community Without Creating Enrollment Barriers

Numerous studies have shown that masking is a very effective tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19. As one article noted:

Community mask wearing substantially reduces transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in 2 ways. First, masks prevent infected persons from exposing others to SARS-CoV-2 by blocking exhalation of virus-containing droplets into the air (termed source control). This aspect of mask wearing is especially important because it is estimated that at least 50% or more of transmissions are from persons who never develop symptoms or those who are in the presymptomatic phase of COVID-19 illness. Second, masks protect uninfected wearers. Masks form a barrier to large respiratory droplets that could land on exposed mucous membranes of the eye, nose, and mouth. Masks can also partially filter out small droplets and particles from inhaled air. (Brooks JT, Butler JC. Effectiveness of Mask Wearing to Control Community Spread of SARS-CoV-2. *JAMA*. 2021;325(10):998–999.)

The College's Emergency Operations Team has determined that indoor mask wearing is necessary given the levels of community transmission.

In addition to masking, the College will continue with other mitigation measures, including cleaning and disinfecting and enhanced air ventilation.

Finally, the College will continue to promote vaccinations as an important step members of the College community can take to prevent serious illness or death.

MOTION MADE BY: Susan Aminoff
SECONDED BY: Margaret Quiñones -Perez
STUDENT ADVISORY: Aye
AYES: 6
NOES: 1 (Rader)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Santa Monica Community College District	ACTION August 16, 2022
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MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

SUBJECT: **ACADEMIC PERSONNEL**

SUBMITTED BY: Superintendent/President

<u>ELECTION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Beardsley, Jason, Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs	08/16/2022-12/31/2022

<u>INTERIM ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR</u>	
Hernandez, Jose, Associate Dean, Outreach, Onboarding and Student Engagement	07/01/2022-10/31/2022
Whitaker, Tammara, Associate Dean, Online Service, Academic Affairs	07/01/2022-12/31/2022

<u>RESIGNATION</u>	<u>LAST DAY OF PAID SERVICE</u>
Fila, Susan, Interim Associate Dean, Health and Wellbeing, Student Affairs *amended date	08/31/2022*

MOTION MADE BY: Margaret Quiñones -Perez
 SECONDED BY: Sion Roy
 STUDENT ADVISORY: Aye
 AYES: 7
 NOES: 0