

MERCY NEWS

February 21, 2022



Welcome to the second semester of the 2021-2022 academic year at Mercy College of Ohio.

The College Health Nurse for spring semester beginning January 10, 2022 is Karla Vitte. Please contact her at karla.vitte@mercycollege.edu if you have any exposure, symptoms, etc. of COVID.

VACCINE INFORMATION – see pages 5-6. Email coming from Compliance Team this week regarding vaccination.

Celebrating Black History Month February 1, 2022- March 1, 2022 (Taken from black history month website)



Mercy College Week 7!

Welcome to Week 7 of the Spring 2022 semester. In-person and on-campus activities continue for spring semester. We will be monitoring the current situation very closely in case changes have to be made. Masks will be required while in the building. Please also continue to use good hand hygiene. Students will participate in their clinical and practicum experiences as directed by their faculty members.

Our college mission is to educate and inspire students to lead and to serve in the global community by living our values of compassion, excellence, human dignity, justice, sacredness of life, and service.

STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF: Please be aware that Mercy Protective Services will ticket vehicles that are taking up more than one parking space and/or parked in physician spaces or patient spaces in the clinic parking areas.

PLEASE PARK IN THE JEFFERSON PARKING GARAGE AND DRIVE SLOWLY! Pedestrians are walking to their cars!!

It is my sincere hope that you and your families are all well!

Safety and the health and well-being of everyone is first and foremost our top priority, which means that all safety plans must be followed to ensure a healthy environment.

Please continue to use all the safety and cleaning protocol by wiping surface areas, etc. Please continue to follow all signage that is in place.



Communication will be provided in weekly newsletters, president updates, Canvas, social media, and our website at www.mercycollege.edu/covid19.

Email is the official form of communication at the College!

EMERGENCY ALERTS

Please sign up for **RAVE**, the Mercy College emergency alert system.

Mercy College has partnered with Rave Wireless to provide an emergency alert system capable of delivering messages to your Mercy College and personal email addresses, as well as your land line and cell phone. Current students, faculty, and staff are automatically enrolled in Rave. To review or adjust your preferences visit <https://mercycollege.edu/student-affairs/rave-alert-system>

CURRENT COVID-19 NUMBERS

With winter and flu season upon us – the College will provide the most current numbers (includes Toledo and Youngstown), noting that the numbers change frequently. As of February 20, 2022, 3 students were in COVID protocol with 1 COVID + under the direction of Karla Vitte, college health nurse.

Since March 2020, there have been 213 COVID+ students with 213 approved to return to campus.

Campus Open with Safety Precautions in Place

Written by Dr. Susan Wajert

The College opened for in-person classes on Monday, January 10, 2022.

Enter Jefferson side of the building (grocery store type doors) with your face covering in place. Face coverings must always be worn while on campus unless alone in a private office.

Please use good hand hygiene and/or hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer stations are on walls throughout campus and will be placed in classrooms and labs.

Anyone not following the guidelines will be subject to the Student Code of Conduct, and employees will be subject to Mercy Health HR guidelines.

If your temperature is 100 degrees or higher or you have COVID symptoms, please **do not come** to campus, and contact the college health nurse.

Cleaning supplies will be provided in all rooms – please clean work/study area before and after finishing work/student, etc.

Our wipes are from different suppliers so please read the directions for use.

(PLEASE DISREGARD COLOR CODING (not currently being used))

Rad Tech students will follow **purple and pink** circles to their destinations: purple Jefferson and pink Madison.

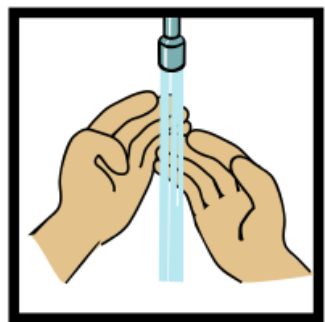
Science Lab students will follow **yellow** circles to their destination.

EMT/Paramedic students follow **orange** circles to their destination.

BLS and Polysomnographic students follow **red** circles to their destination.

Phlebotomy students follow **black** circles to their destination.

Nursing students follow **green** circles to their destination if on Jefferson second or third floor and follow **blue** circles to their destination if on Madison second, third, or fourth floor.



COMPUTER LAB AND STUDY CUBICLES

All computer labs/spaces and study areas will be open for student use. Please make sure to wipe your study spaces down after use so they are clean for the next person. Please limit copying to 100 pages or less so that everyone may print.

PLEASE CLEAN YOUR WORK AREA BEFORE AND AFTER USE!! WIPES ARE PROVIDED!!



2nd floor Madison study rooms will remain closed for the spring semester.

Signage will be posted.

All other lounge areas/study rooms on 5th floor Madison and study cubicles on 6th floor Jefferson will be open.

The new Learning Commons will be open for study with the three team-based collaborative rooms open to students for team-based work and project work.

These rooms are not for individual study.

PLEASE CHECK MONITORS FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

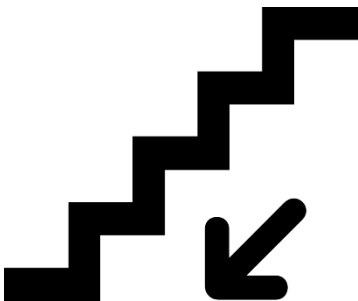


SAFETY FIRST



Please follow all signage on campus for

- Restrooms
- Stairwells
- Elevators
- Safety and Hygiene



Stairwells may be used to go down or for emergencies. Elevators should be used to go up. Limit is two per elevator car.

TOLEDO COLLEGE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 5am-1am and Saturday and Sunday, 8am-5pm



YOUNGSTOWN COLLEGE HOURS

Sunday-Monday, 6am-11pm

STUDENT SERVICES



All student services will be provided in the online/remote environment, but some services will be offered in-person. It is highly suggested that appointments be made for in-person visits with student services. All safety protocol must be followed in these circumstances.

All open/congregate spaces on-campus will be OPEN!



Please continue to wear masks, practice at least 3 feet of social distancing and wash hands frequently.



WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please visit the Mercy College webpage at www.mercycollege.edu/covid19 and review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s). If you cannot find the answer to your question, please complete the Ask a Question form and submit. Someone will get back to you within 24-48 hours. Thank you.

Mercy Café Menu

Week of February 21-February 25, 2022

Spring Semester Continues into Week 7!!

Diversity Blessing

May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy,
Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.

May the Son who teaches us to care for strangers and foreigners,
Go with us as we try to be good neighbors in our communities.

May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community,
Go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.

- Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood (Taken from Xavier University website)

Beauty of Winter

God of creation, thank you for the beauty of winter- for snow, icy windowpanes, evergreen trees, warm coats, sledding, and hot cocoa. Let us enjoy Your creation in all its glory, this winter and always. Amen

(Taken from Xavier University website)

OTHER OFFICES OPEN FOR ASSISTANCE

Please email the department that you need instead of calling. This will facilitate a faster response with all of the College offices. Please schedule an appointment for an in-person visit.

Department email addresses are:

studentsuccesscenter@mercycollege.edu

registrar@mercycollege.edu

financialaid@mercycollege.edu

bursar@mercycollege.edu

admissions@mercycollege.edu

CAFETERIA HOURS (Toledo)

Monday – Friday
7:30am-1:30pm

NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES PERMITTED IN CLASSROOMS OR LABS.

A water bottle or water container is permissible.

Youngstown Location

CONGREGATE SPACES



YOUNGSTOWN LOCATION

CAFETERIA HOURS

See posted hours in Youngstown.

Empower Menu Standardization – Changed February 17, 2022

In an effort to improve the consistency and utility of the Empower Me! website, the student-facing menus were reorganized and standardized on February 17. No menu items were removed, but they may have been relocated, and some new items were added. The top-level menu headings may have undergone minor changes for naming consistency and the menu structure was flattened to reduce the number of clicks required to traverse the submenus. For example, in the current menu structure the "Change Password" option is under the "Settings and Tools" menu for prospective students but is under "Student Records" for enrolled students. In the revised structure, an "Account Settings" menu now contains the "Change Password" function.

Two-Factor Authentication Began February 1, 2022

Two-factor authentication was enabled in both the Empower Me website and the Empower client on February 1, 2022 to provide an additional layer of security beyond just a username and password. All users of Empower are impacted, including faculty, staff, students, prospective students, and alumni. You sign into Empower as usual with your username and password, and then Empower will send an email to your personal email address with a security code. You will need to enter that security code into the security validation screen in Empower to complete the sign in process. To ensure a smooth sign in experience, please take a moment to verify your personal email address in Empower in advance by using the “Update Personal Information” option in Empower Me. If you do not have a personal email address on file in Empower, it will fall back to using your Mercy College email address. Please see the [online how-to guide](#) for detailed instructions regarding the new sign-in process. The Mercy College Information Technology team is available at 419-251-9898 to help with two-factor authentication issues.

Get \$5 for Your Opinion – Please complete the Student Satisfaction Survey.**Take a Survey - Earn \$5**

The Mercy College student satisfaction survey was sent to your email last week. This email came from Dr. Susan Wajert, President, Mercy College of Ohio.

Make sure you complete the survey by February 28, 2022 for your \$5 gift card.

Updated Transcript Ordering Process

At the beginning of the pandemic, Mercy College of Ohio changed the transcript ordering process. We now complete all transcript requests through the National Student Clearinghouse. Most transcript requests are fulfilled within 24 hours. We encourage electronic delivery as it is the quickest method and it is free. PLEASE NOTE: We no longer accept or process paper or email transcript requests.

Order your Mercy College Transcript at the following link: <https://mercycollege.edu/academics/student-records/transcript-request>

You can also go to the Mercy College of Ohio website (Mercycollege.edu) and search for “Transcript” this will take you to the same page.

Click on the “Request a Transcript” link, then the green box titled “Order Transcripts”

Complete the next screen with your personal information. Provide your student ID number, or social security number. Answer all the required questions/prompts. (You will not be able to proceed to the next screen until all required information is provided).

On the page titled “Select Transcript and Deliver Details” under “Delivery Information” you can select Electronic Delivery or Mail/United States and there will be no charge. If you select any other delivery options, the cost will be indicated next to the method. On this page, you also have the option to upload any additional documents with your transcript.

On the Checkout page, you will sign electronically, and you will then see an order confirmation page. You will also receive a confirmation email, and if you signed up for text updates, you will receive text messages about your order.

You can email registrar@mercycollege.edu with any questions.

Endowed Scholarships

The fall 2022 Endowed Scholarship application is now open. The deadline for applicants is February 28, 2022. Only one application is necessary to be considered. Visit: <https://www.mercycollege.edu/scholarships> and apply today. An essay on the Mercy values and how you demonstrate them in your life, your commitment to the College's motto of compassion and caring is a requirement. The essay should be no greater than 500 words. It is also recommended students complete the 2022-2023 FAFSA at www.studentaid.gov by the scholarship deadline for need-based scholarship consideration. Please contact the financial aid office with questions at (419) 251-1219 or financialaid@mercycollege.edu and the Financial Aid Office will be glad to assist you!

Complete the 2022–23 FAFSA® Form

Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to apply for financial aid for undergraduate and graduate school. If you are planning on attending Mercy College between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, please complete the 2022-23 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) now. The 2022-23 FAFSA application will be used for determining your financial aid beginning in summer 2022. You will report your 2020 tax information. Apply now at www.studentaid.gov. Mercy College's school code is 030970-00. If you have questions, please contact the financial aid office at financialaid@mercycollege.edu or (419) 251-1219 and we will be glad to assist you.

February will continue with entry precautions and hours of operation

All faculty, staff, and students will enter the College through the Jefferson entrance. Please park on the Jefferson side of the building.

Masks will be required for all on-campus activities. If you do not have a mask or forget your mask, please ask the receptionist at the front desk who will have some extra masks. **The Madison entrance remains closed for the safety and security of our students, faculty, and staff.**

Student lounges and study rooms are open for both Toledo and Youngstown students. The second floor Madison building study rooms in Toledo will be closed. Please use at least three feet of social distancing.

Please follow current signage in place.

In Toledo, the hours of operation for fall semester students who wish to study on campus in study rooms or cubicles are 5am-1am Monday through Friday and the College is open from 8am-5pm on Saturday and Sunday for those who wish to study in study rooms or cubicles. Students who need to enter earlier than 8am on the weekends will be able to use their badges to access the College through the Jefferson entrance under the blue canopy.

In Youngstown, the campus is open from 6am-11pm Monday through Sunday and available via badge access during those hours.

The receptionists at the front desk in Toledo will be working 24 hours per day/seven days per week. The receptionists are staffed by Towne Park.

Bon Secours Mercy Health has provided the College with new information regarding the Covid-19 vaccine, which follows:

COVID VACCINATIONS – NEW INFORMATION

COVID VACCINATIONS – UPDATED INFORMATION as of 1/25/2022

With the recent Supreme Court decision regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) vaccine mandate, Mercy College’s parent organization, Bon Secours Mercy Health (BSMH), has notified the College that it will be complying with the mandate and requiring the COVID vaccination. This requirement will apply to all students that either come to the Toledo Campus or Youngstown location, as well as any students who **participate in any clinical activity** (online student or face-to-face student). **Students who are fully online AND do not have an in-person clinical component are exempt at this time.**

In order to meet the final dose deadline, individuals who plan to receive the two-dose Moderna/Pfizer vaccine should receive their first dose and have their confirmation submitted no later than March 25. The second dose of these vaccines, along with confirmation documentation, will need to be completed by April 23. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single dose and must be completed by the March 25th deadline. At this time, BSMH has declared that it will consider vaccine exemptions for students, based on **sincerely held religious beliefs or medical contraindication supported by documentation from a medical professional**. (Information on the exemption process can be found [here](#), under Resources)

The following outlines the process of submitting vaccination documentation:

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VACCINE DOCUMENTATION

If you have received both doses, one (1) submission will be sufficient. If you have not received both doses, documentation of the first dose must be received by the March 25th deadline. If you are receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, documentation must be received by the March 25th deadline.

CLINICAL STUDENTS

All clinical students will complete/upload their vaccine information to the COVID-19 component of their CastleBranch account. *Select Yes to proceed to upload your vaccination card. *Students who have previously entered “No” to having had the vaccine will need to wait until the question is reset in CastleBranch before they will be able to upload the vaccine documentation.*

12. COVID-19 Vaccine

Have you received the COVID-19 vaccination(s)? If NO, this requirement will be marked complete and the renewal will be set for 3 months to ask again. If YES, submit one of the following:

• Documentation of your COVID-19 vaccination(s).

• If your series is in process, submit your first vaccination, and a new alert will be created for you to provide your second vaccination.

• Documentation must include the vaccine manufacturer.

• If BOTH vaccines are submitted to this requirement a new alert for the COVID-19 Vaccination Booster will be set for 6 months for Pfizer & Moderna OR 2 months for J&J.

OR

• If you are requesting consideration of an exemption based on sincerely held religious beliefs or medical contraindication supported by documentation from a medical professional, you must complete the exemption request found on the Mercy College website under Resources. Supporting documents must be completed following the instructions on the form and submitted to exemptions@mercycollege.edu no later than two weeks prior to the due date.

• Exemptions are not automatic, and some clinical sites may refuse to place a student who has not received the COVID vaccine. If a clinical site that will accept the exemption/waiver request cannot be found, student will not be able to complete the course - and may not be able to continue in the program. Waiver forms must be completed annually and are subject to acceptance/denial each semester.

• Note to reviewers: Only accept letter from school for exemptions, the form is not acceptable. Please also choose either religious exemption or medical exemption.

• Renewal will be set for 1 year for exemptions.

01/18/2022 11:32:22 AM EST - Castle Branch

☐ Yes

☐ No

NON-CLINICAL STUDENTS

Non-clinical students should send an email to COVIDcompliance@mercycollege.edu from the student’s Mercy College email address. The email must contain the following:

Student Name

Mercy College Student ID

Major

Front and back scan or pictures of the student’s vaccination card (sent as attachment to the email)

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine

How do I arrange to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Students can schedule their COVID-19 vaccine by visiting <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> and using the access code: B36ZHKFQJ7 (Ohio residents) or by visiting Find a vaccine near you.

What do I do once I’m vaccinated?

Current students who have a CastleBranch account can upload their vaccination card into their CastleBranch account. Non-clinical students or students without a Castlebranch account can send an email to COVIDcompliance@mercycollege.edu from their Mercy College email address, including a scan or picture of the front and back of the vaccination card, as well the student’s name, Mercy College Student ID, and major.

What if I have had COVID-19 recently?

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Vaccination is still highly encouraged. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days, you could wait to be vaccinated until outside of the isolation period and recovered (this is usually 10 days from symptom onset, have no fever for at least 24 hours AND improvement in other symptoms). If you have further questions, please contact the College Health Nurse, Karla Vitte.

Can I get an exemption?

Current students at the College who have a medical contraindication or a sincerely held religious belief were to submit an exemption request by January 20, 2022. COVID-19 vaccination exemption forms are located [here](#) under *Resources* and should be submitted to the following email link: exemptions@mercycollege.edu

What if I have further questions?

Mercy College administration wants to protect our faculty, staff, and students and vaccination is the most optimal way to show compassion for those with whom we work and learn, and for the patients that are under our care. If you have questions, please fill out this [form](#).

Where can I get vaccinated?

For information, go to: <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov>

For Michigan Residents:

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214---,00.html

All Other Residents: <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>