

September 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Mercy Career & Technical High School hosted a Zoom meeting on August 24th, 2021 to explain the Health & Safety Plan for this school year. More than one-third of the Mercy Tech families joined the call. As stated at the start of the meeting, this plan may be updated, as more guidance from the CDC and local health agencies emerge.

As we shared at the meeting, Mercy Tech's faculty and staff are 100% vaccinated. Mercy Tech is planning for total in-person learning this year. There will be no virtual learning option. Per the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Health guidelines, all faculty, staff, students, and visitors will wear masks indoors. Our primary goal is to protect our students and keep our entire school community healthy and safe amid this extremely contagious COVID-19 Delta variant.

Mercy Tech's career and technical programs work closely with business partners who require COVID-19 vaccinations. Due to the standards required by these employers, students who do not have COVID-19 vaccinations will not be able to complete the following programs:

- Health Occupations
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Co-op jobs (affects all CTE programs for seniors)

Based on CDC guidelines, our business partners' vaccination policies, and the severity of the Delta variant, Mercy Tech is instituting the following:

- COVID-19 Testing
 - All students, staff, and teachers will be tested on the first day of school (**no one is excused from testing**)
 - Testing is free for all students, staff, and teachers.
 - Moving forward unvaccinated students will be tested on a weekly basis.
 - Vaccinated students will be tested periodically.
 - If the student has health insurance please email a copy of the insurance card to mmusial@mercycte.org by Wednesday, September 8, 2021.
 - If the student does not currently have health insurance, please contact Ms. Glatts at 215-226-1225, extension 141
- COVID-19 Vaccinations
 - Every student 16 or older is required to be vaccinated, so that the student may fully participate in CTE and complete the CTE program requirements in order to graduate.

- Students under the age of 16 are strongly encouraged to get COVID-19 vaccinations.
- If your child is already vaccinated, please send a copy of the vaccine card to Ms. Glatts at cglatts@mercycyte.org as soon as possible.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
 - Mercy Tech will host a **vaccine clinic on Wednesday, September 22nd**, offering the Federal Drug Administration fully approved Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. You can also find a vaccine clinic closest to your home, by visiting: <https://www.vaccines.gov/>

Further, Mercy Tech is requiring students to be fully vaccinated to participate in:

- After school sports
- Academic and CTE class trips to businesses
- Programs requiring vaccinations

As a private school, Mercy is establishing these protocols for the safety of our entire school community and to avoid loss of in-person learning. These COVID-19 policies are in addition to other school rules which are contained in the Mercy Tech Parent/Student Handbook.

If you as a parent/guardian do not wish your child to follow these guidelines which include testing, please contact Mr. Aument at cament@mercycyte.org or Sister Rosemary at rherron@mercycyte.org to discuss the current enrollment of your child at Mercy Career & Technical High School.

Thank you for being a valued partner with Mercy Tech's faculty and staff as we work together to keep our entire school community, especially your children, healthy and safe. May God continue to bless us all!

Sincerely,

Sister Rosemary Herron, RSM, President
Catherine Glatts, Vice President
Christian Aument, Principal
Sister Karen Schneider, RSM, MD, Pandemic Consultant
Colleen Lange, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Maria Montero, Esq., Member of the Board of Trustees

Cc: Maria Montero, Esq., Mercy CTE Board of Director