

In The News

Free COVID-19 vaccinations available weekly at HCC

HOLYOKE – Starting Tuesday, Aug. 24, Holyoke Community College will host weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics on its Homestead Avenue campus.

At the HCC site, the healthcare company Curative will offer both first and second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, as well as the single-dose Janssen J&J vaccine.

The clinics will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday at least through the month of September in Parking Lot M outside the Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation, the same location where HCC conducts its COVID-19 testing through the Holyoke Board of Health.

The vaccination clinics will be managed by Curative, which has administered more than 150,000 COVID-19 vaccines in communities throughout western Massachusetts, according to the company.

Vaccines are free. The vaccination clinics are open to all HCC students, faculty and staff as well as residents of Holyoke and surrounding communities.

Advance registration is encouraged but not required. Walk-ins are welcome.

HCC, like all the other community colleges in Massachusetts, is not requiring students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated before they return to campus for the start of the fall 2021 semester on Sept. 7. HCC does, however, require that everyone wears a mask inside campus buildings regardless of their vaccination status.

“Even though we don’t have a mandate, we strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated,” said Narayan Sampath, vice president of Administration and Finance. “We want to provide every opportunity we can for people to get tested and vaccinated.”

Anyone interested in pre-registering for a vaccine can do so on the Curative website: curative/hcc.

Free drive-through COVID-19 testing is also available at HCC six days a week in Parking Lot M. The testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.