



November 16, 2021

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# Minnesota State COVID-19 Response and Mitigation Strategies

Committee of the Whole

# Outline

- College and University Operations
- Proof of Vaccination and Testing
  - Employees
  - Students
- Vaccine Education and Incentives
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)



# Unfolding Pandemic

- Dynamic, directive environment
- Emergency Executive Orders
- Alignment with CDC/MDH guidance and recommendations
- MDH partnership

# Robust and Recurring Communication have been critical element of our response

Engagement	Stakeholders	Frequency
<b>Minnesota State Internal Leadership Team</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chancellor, Chief of Staff</li> <li>ASA, Finance/Facilities, HR, IT, Marketing &amp; Communications, Government Relations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly</li> </ul>
<b>Minnesota State COVID Campus Contact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campus COVID contacts designated at each college/university</li> <li>System Office</li> <li><i>Invited tribal college presidents/teams</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning of pandemic – daily</li> <li>Moved to weekly</li> </ul>
<b>MN Dept of Health/Office of Higher Education COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated by MDH-Higher Education team</li> <li>All MN higher education institutions (public &amp; private)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly</li> </ul>
<b>State of Minnesota Agency Leaders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated by MMB</li> <li>State of Minnesota HR professionals and staff with COVID responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly to assist with implementation of MMB #1446</li> </ul>
<b>State of Minnesota CHROs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated by MMB</li> <li>State of Minnesota HR professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly</li> <li><i>Break in calls but re-engaged to assist with MMB #1446 implementation</i></li> </ul>

*Ongoing engagement with Leadership Council and campus c-suites; weekly calls with Labor Relations/Bargaining Units; Student Affairs/Statewide Student Associations and others continue*

# Fall 2020 vs Fall 2021 Environment

Fall 2020	Element	Fall 2021
Yes	<b>Emergency Executive Orders</b>	No
Directive	<b>CDC/MDH Requirements</b>	Recommendations and Guidance
Required	<b>Social Distancing</b>	As able
Limited	<b>Group Sized</b>	No specific limits
Limited	<b>Social activities</b>	Not limited
Required	<b>Masks/ Face Coverings</b>	Based on County Transmission Rates
None	<b>Vaccination</b>	Widely Available



# Course Delivery Mix: Fall 2019, Fall 2020, and Fall 2021

Delivery Mode	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
In-Person	75%	38%	50%
Mixed Delivery	9%	18%	16%
Online/Remote Delivery	17%	44%	34%



# Community and College/University Cases

- Comparing fall 2020 and fall 2021:
  - Average of weekly cases reported by colleges and universities in 2021 decreased by 27% over 2020 (141 in 2021; 211 in 2020)
    - Employee cases increased by 24% (31 in 2021; 25 in 2020)
    - Student cases decreased by 34% (140 in 2021; 211 in 2020)



# College and University Operations

- Continued Focus:
  - Protecting their health and safety
  - Serving students and employees
- Implementing CDC Masking Guidance:
  - Counties with Substantial or High transmission rates
- Vaccine advocacy and promotion
- Vaccination attestation and testing
  - Employees
  - Student groups
- Case monitoring and management





# **MMB Policy #1446: Proof of Vaccination and Testing**



# MMB Policy #1446: COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination and Testing

- Requires all Minnesota State employees (including student workers), vendors, contractors and volunteers to provide attestation regarding their COVID vaccination status.
- Until an employee submits proof of full vaccination against COVID, they must undergo mandatory testing for COVID at least weekly.
- NOTE: Employees who are approved for full-time telework from home or otherwise on an approved leave of absence are not subject to the MMB Policy



# MMB Policy #1446: COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination and Testing

- Deployed “VaxTrak” systemwide
  - Over 20,804 attestations in “VaxTrak”
- The vast majority of Minnesota State employees (91%) have attested to their vaccination or are exempt under the policy.
  - State cabinet-level agencies have reported an aggregated rate of 77%.
- The remaining 9% are subject to testing protocols
  - On-site facility
  - Contracted testing facility
  - Self-administered options

# MMB Policy #1446: COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination and Testing

Employee Status	Number	Percent
Total Employee Count	14,916	
Certified Vaccinated / Exempt*	13,506	91%
Testing	1,410	9%
<i>No-Pay Status / Non-compliance</i>	8	> 1%

*As of November 1, 2021*

\* NOTE: Just over 1,000 employees are exempt under this policy as they telework full-time or they are on an approved leave. Many exempt employees volunteered their vaccination status.

# MMB Policy #1446: COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination and Testing

Student Workers	Number	Percent
Total Attestations	5,389	
Certified Vaccinated	4,478	83%
Testing	911	17%

Other (non-employee / student worker)	Number	Percent
Total Attestations	1,013	
Certified Vaccinated	836	83%
Testing	177	17%

# **Minnesota State Student Guidance: Proof of Vaccination and Testing**



# Student Attestation of Vaccination/Testing Framework

- Applied to specific student populations to mitigate transmission
- Students in residence halls
- Student athletes (already subject to vaccination/testing protocols)
- Extracurricular activities with higher risk of transmission, such as intramural sports, choral ensembles, theater productions, etc.; determined at the campus level
- Students have already been subject to requirements of clinical sites (often include vaccine mandates that go beyond Minnesota State requirements)

# Implementation and Administration

- Software attestation tool built and tested in three weeks in student E-services
- Procedure and operating instructions developed in parallel with the tool
- Initial effective date of October 4, 2021, with weekly testing in place shortly thereafter
- System office IT staff: development and iterative updates to the software tool, and build-out of reporting
- Campus investment of staff time and effort to review and certify proof of vaccination, and ongoing need to monitor weekly testing and follow-up with positive cases



# Vaccination Education and Incentives



# Vaccination Education and Outreach

- **Outreach and Education**
  - White House COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge
  - Educational materials
  - Partnership with MDH to address vaccine questions and concerns
  - MDH videos focused on higher education
  - Incentives
    - Minnesota State University, Moorhead: \$500 cash drawings
    - Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College: \$100 bookstore credit
    - Central Lakes College: free campus gear and the chance to win additional prizes



## VAX TO SCHOOL

### Calling the Shots

Vaccines, Ethics and Equity

VIRTUAL EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION



- Live event,
- Organized by faculty,
- Recorded,
- Questions? [jessica.medearis@anokaramsey.edu](mailto:jessica.medearis@anokaramsey.edu)

### Anoka Ramsey Community College

Marc Jenkins, PhD, Immunologist, University of Minnesota

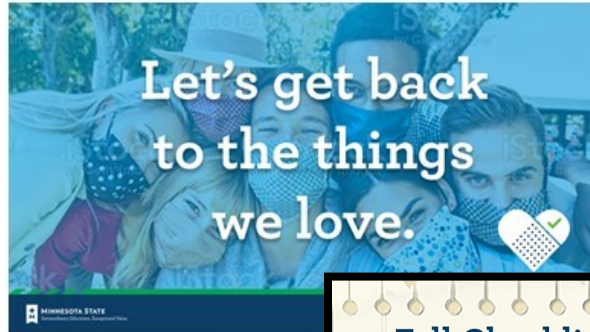
Monica Janzen, PhD, Philosophy Faculty, Anoka Ramsey Community college

Mary Logaard, DNP, CNP, Nurse Practitioner, Wellia Health System

Inari Mohammed, Epidemiology PhD, Candidate, University of Minnesota



# Campus Vaccination Events



**Fall Checklist:**

- Make it to class on time
- Join a club
- Get vaccinated

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**Find a vaccine near you.**

[vaccineconnector.mn.gov/en-US](https://vaccineconnector.mn.gov/en-US)

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MinnState.edu

**Have questions about Covid vaccines?**

That's totally normal.

MINNESOTA STATE  
MinnState.edu

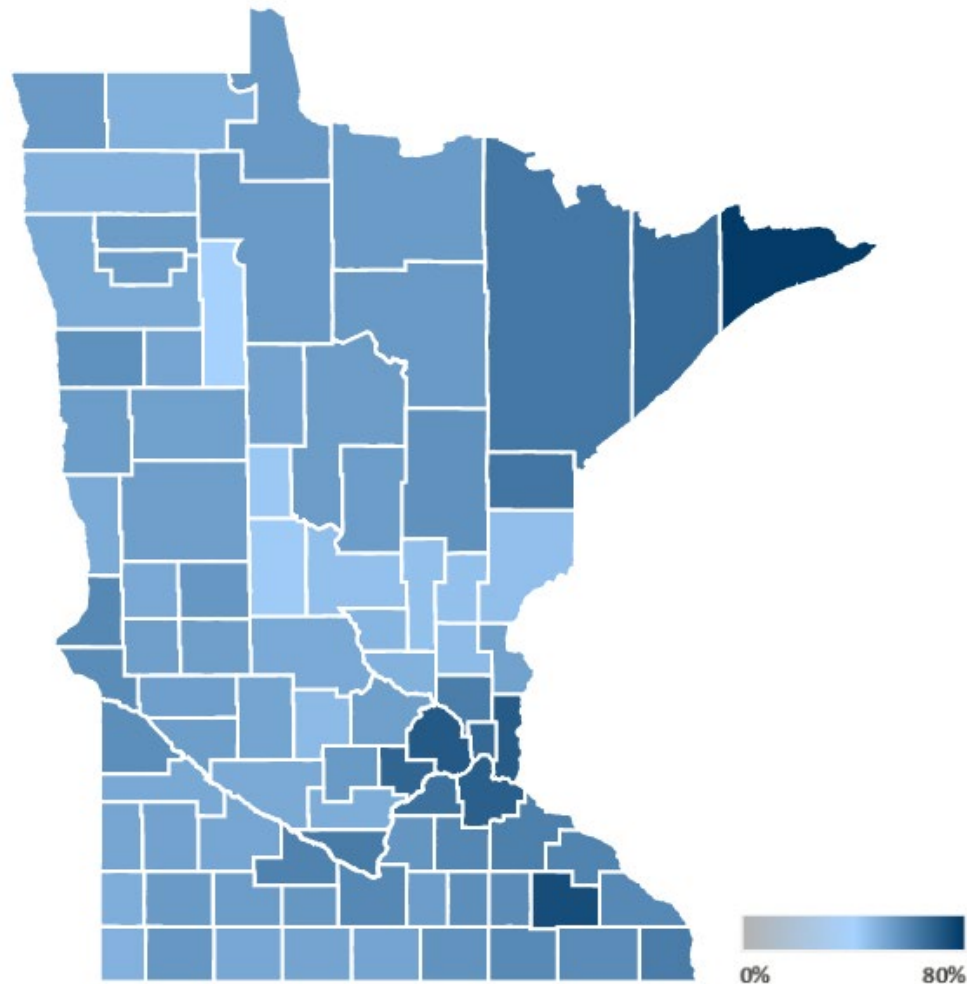
- Community events and clinics hosted on many campuses early in the state's vaccination campaign in spring
- Campus-specific events planned as part of "return to campus" efforts in the fall
- Nearly 100 campus events in 2021, 75 of them since August 1
- Minnesota State Vax Challenge

**#RiverlandWeCanDoThis**

**"[The vaccine] helps to take away the fear you have about COVID."**

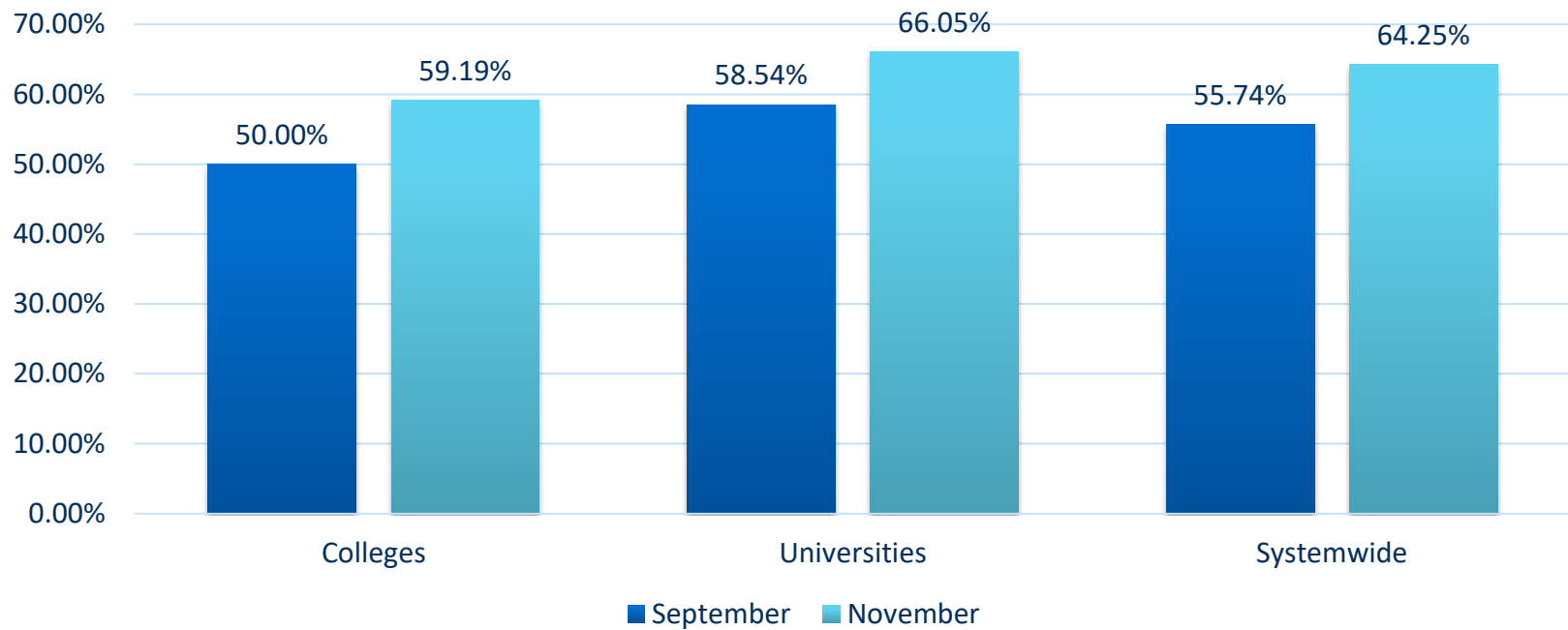
**Jane Kolil**  
Licensed Practical Nursing student

# County-Level Vaccination Data in Minnesota (Total Population)



Source: Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Summary

# Student Vaccination Data: One Dose Coverage



# Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)



# Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund(HEERF) Allocations for COVID-19 Years – Minnesota State

	CARES HEERF I	CRRSAA HEERF II	American Rescue Plan
<b>Total to Institutions</b>	<b>\$93.4M</b>	<b>\$186.9M</b>	<b>\$327.0M</b>
Student minimum	\$46.7M	\$46.7M	\$167.0M
Institution maximum	\$46.7M	\$140.2M	\$160.0M
Primary Fiscal years of use	2020, 2021	2021, 2022	2022

# HEERF Student Grants disbursed as of October 31, 2021

- HEERF I (CARES):
  - Primarily disbursed in Spring 2020
  - \$46,765,444 from the student grant portion
  - \$2,435,201 additional student grants from the institutional portion
- HEERF II (CRRSAA):
  - Primarily disbursed in Spring 2021
  - \$46,259,621 from the student grant portion
  - \$15,445,002 additional student grants from the institutional portion
- HEERF III (ARP):
  - Primarily disbursed during 2021-2022 academic year
  - \$80,972,796 from the student grant portion
  - \$7,451,148 additional student grants from the institutional portion
  - There is a minimum of \$86,000,000 of student grants that will be disbursed between November 1, 2021 and the end of the academic year



# American Rescue Plan – Student Grants

- Federal guidance maintains that grants must prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances
- DACA and international students now eligible
- Grants are provided directly to students and may be used for any cost of attendance; the institution cannot direct or control how students use the funds
- Campuses submitted distribution plans to the Chancellor

# American Rescue Plan –Institutional Portion

- Allowable uses include:
  - Defraying expenses associated with coronavirus (including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll)
  - Making additional emergency financial aid grants to students.
- Two new uses required
  - implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress COVID-19
  - outreach to financial aid applicants about the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment



# FY2022 Planned Uses for HEERF Funds

Category	Amount (\$ in millions)
Student Grants	\$182.3
Lost Revenue	\$ 80.4
Campus Safety	\$ 48.8
Technology, Instruction, Student Services	\$ 46.1
Other	\$ 45.1
Total	\$402.7



# Revenue Fund Budget

<b>\$s in millions</b>	<b>FY2021 Approved Budget (June)</b>	<b>FY2022 Updated Budget (October)</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Other revenues	\$84.9	\$99.1	\$14.2	16.8%
Programmed fund balance	\$13.0	\$6.3	(\$6.7)	-51.9%
<b>Revenue Total</b>	\$97.9	\$105.3	\$7.5	7.7%
<b>Expenses</b>				
Compensation	\$25.5	\$27.4	\$1.9	7.3%
Other operating costs	\$82.4	\$86.7	\$4.3	5.2%
<b>Expenses Total</b>	\$107.9	\$114.1	\$6.2	5.7%
<b>Budget gap</b>	(\$10.0)	(\$8.7)		
<b>HEERF Transfer in</b>	\$11.6	\$10.4		
<b>Budget balance</b>	\$1.6	\$1.7		

*\*Numbers may not add due to rounding.*



# MINNESOTA STATE

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