



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

155 Indian Ave

Lawrence, Kansas 66046

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2021



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HASKELL

To: Students, Staff, and Faculty

From: Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer, Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell) Interim President

Re: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Student Vaccination Mandate

Below is important information regarding new requirements. On September 2, 2021, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland signed Secretarial Order 3402 mandating all educators, including staff and faculty in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) operated schools, to be fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). On September 9, 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees. In addition to the Secretarial and Executive Orders, Haskell will also require all students accessing any Haskell facility in-person to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Consistent with the best available science and appropriate prevention strategies to reduce transmission of COVID-19, all students accessing any Haskell facility in-person must receive either a single-dose Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine (Johnson & Johnson or comparable future vaccines) or both doses of a two-dose FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, or comparable future vaccines) no later than December 1, 2021. In addition, any student enrolling for the first time after December 1, 2021 must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to accessing any Haskell facility in person. Those who are unable to get vaccinated due to a documented medical condition that would prevent the administration of a COVID-19 vaccination or a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation that does not pose an undue hardship on Haskell.

Haskell will consider accommodation requests of students who are unable to get vaccinated due to a documented medical condition that would prevent the administration of a COVID-19 vaccination or a sincerely held religious belief on an individualized basis and may rely on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when deciding whether effective accommodations are available that would not pose an undue hardship on school operations. Such accommodations may include providing proof of negative COVID-19 status on a weekly basis.

Haskell is working with local health providers (Haskell Indian Health Center) to make vaccination and testing available on campus. Additional information on availability of campus vaccination and weekly testing along with guidance on reporting requirements and the process for submitting accommodation requests is forthcoming. Please know that Haskell leadership is working to ensure as safe an educational and work environment as possible for our students, faculty, and staff. This vaccination mandate will help ensure that Haskell continues to safely meet the trust responsibility to American Indian and Alaska Native students.

Be well and remain safe. Thank you.