



October 26, 2021

Dear Students,

The purpose of this communication is to provide you an update on the COVID-19 vaccine requirement. As last communicated on September 13, 2021, the Bon Secours Mercy Health Richmond Market is requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for all students, associates, and providers. Market leadership shared that this decision was based on firm belief, grounded in scientific evidence, that the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh any potential risks. Thank you for your compliance with submitting either your vaccine documentation and/or the completion of the survey in September.

All students are to have the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by November 1, 2021 and full vaccination compliance by December 1, 2021. You are required to provide documentation of at least your first dose of the vaccine to the SOMI Operations Coordinator, Robin Diacont, no later than October 31, 2021. If you are interested in applying for a medical or sincerely held religious exemption then you will need to complete the appropriate form no later than November 1, 2021. Follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/tx6W6peDRb> to the exemption process. A decision about the exemption will be communicated by email to you. If the exemption is granted you will need to provide a copy of the exemption letter to the SOMI Operations Coordinator, Robin Diacont, to complete the documentation process.

If you are not granted an exemption and/or you have not completed the vaccination requirement as outlined in the paragraph above, you will not be able to complete your clinical experiences in a Bon Secours facility (or other facilities requiring COVID-19 vaccination). Students who are not able to complete their clinical courses will receive a grade of incomplete until the clinical requirements are met. In addition, we cannot guarantee that an exemption granted by Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing will comply with requirements for clinical in other facilities. Each facility selected for clinical has the right and privilege to require standards for student compliance for experiences in their facility.

Thank you for your patience since the last communication. For more information about the vaccine or where to locate a free COVID-19 vaccine clinic please visit: <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/> or attend a BSMH COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic. If you have questions about how this requirement could affect your education, please contact your advisor to discuss your individual concerns. Thank you for continuing to do your part to keep our campus community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jody D. Crane".

Jody D. Crane, M.A.Ed., R.T. (R), (BD)

Dean

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