

Gov. Reeves ended previous COVID-19 restrictions, keeps school mask mandate

By Will Stribling
Mississippi Today

More than 14 months after COVID-19 reached Mississippi, Gov. Tate Reeves has rolled back all COVID-related restrictions except one.

Reeves' new executive order, issued recently, essentially returns the state to the way things were before the pandemic. The only remaining statewide order that remains in place is the requirement that masks be worn inside school buildings through the end of the 2020-2021 academic school year.

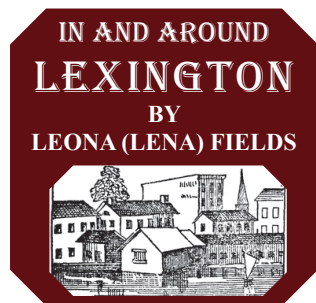
Seating caps for collegiate sporting events and K-12 extracurricular activities are being lifted by the new order, which went into effect at 5 p.m. April 30. On Twitter, Reeves cited upcoming graduation ceremonies as a motivator for removing capacity restrictions.

In the order, Reeves does recommend that Mississippians continue to follow Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention and Mississippi State Department of Health guidelines on COVID-19 safety, which include wearing a mask in all public spaces, social distancing and hand-washing.

Reeves repealed most COVID-related restrictions in early March. Reeves has drawn criticism from both sides of the political spectrum over his handling of COVID-19 in Mississippi, with some decrying any COVID-related executive order as "tyrannical" and others panning his patchwork approach to mask mandates.

The Mississippi State Department of Health reported that 949,833 people in Mississippi — about 32% of the state's population — have received at least their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Just over 788,000 people have received both doses since the state began distributing vaccines in December. Thousands of vaccination appointments are currently



Lee Andrew Meeks/Jackson is in or has been in a hospital. I don't know which hospital. First Sunday, he was in a hospital. Mrs. Fannie Mae Johnson is at home from one of the hospitals in Jackson.

I have some new neighbors. Ms. Carrie Wright moved in the trailer behind me. She's my in-law cousin. She grew up near by me with her grandfather, Mr. Lee Wright. Therefore I don't have to worry about strangers moving in the community. I know I have some good neighbors.

Eric Wright and a cousin came home a few days. They visited his sisters, Cassie, LaKeita, Tiffany and Twana. They also visited his grandfather, Mr. Lee Wright. They asked about me. However, I

available on the MSDH vaccine scheduler. All Mississippians ages 16 and up are currently eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

ings. In fact, the practice of modern medicine would be impossible without the tests performed in the laboratory. Every day, new advances in genetic testing, biomarkers, and polymerase chain reaction technology are creating more challenges and job opportunities for clinical laboratory science professionals. It is a fast-growing field, and there will be great demand for clinical laboratory professionals in the future. Clinical laboratory professionals are the researchers, the investigators, and some say the real heroes of medicine.

Thirteen completed the Radiologic Technology Program. The Radiologic Technology Program provides a general education and clinical training program that prepares students for a career in radiography. The technical program combines theory through traditional classroom instruction and laboratory experience on campus, and clinical experiences in affiliating hospitals to provide opportunities for students to develop skills needed to enter the Radiology profession. The Radiologic Technology Program commences in August of each year and runs for 22 consecutive months with a projected graduation date in May.

For more information about our Health Science Programs, click here. Students interested in enrolling in a health care program should register for orientation by visiting start.msdelta.edu. Orientation will be held in the J. T. Hall Coliseum on the Moorhead Campus of Mississippi Delta Community College.

was away from home at the time.

Parents, I know you have heard on the news, they are giving COVID-19 vaccines to children 12-15 years old. So please have your child/children vaccinated. Do it now. Don't wait until school

starts in August. They need the shots for summer school. Do not allow your child/children to make excuses. Parents remember you are the grown-up. The children are not grown; therefore you make the decisions for them. Churches, more and more

of you are opening back up. Watch the people that enter the site doors. They may not sanitize their hands or have their temperature checked. Everybody needs to enter the main sanctuary door. The deacons or stewards need to enforce this.

Mississippi becomes fourth state to allow access to Federal Financial Aid for those without a high school diploma

News Release

In a plan approved by the United States Department of Education (DOE), Mississippi became the fourth state in the nation to allow students without a high school diploma to potentially receive Federal student financial aid for enrolling in eligible career pathway programs at a Mississippi community college. The Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB) submitted its proposed process for Ability to Benefit in October, and approval notification was received on April 21.

Under the plan, certain students who previously would not qualify for Federal financial aid, including those without a high school diploma or its equivalent, may be eligible for these resources. This includes students enrolled in the Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MIBEST) program. MIBEST is available at all 15 community colleges

and enrolls those without a high school diploma into adult education and career/technical education courses. The result is students have the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency and other postsecondary credential in less time. MIBEST is funded through a partnership between the MCCB and W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Women's Foundation of Mississippi, and the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

"I am very appreciative to the DOE for approving our process for Ability to Benefit," said Dr. Andrea Mayfield Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board. "In Mississippi, we have more than 360,000 people without a high school diploma. Oftentimes, these individuals are not able to have resources to improve their educational levels and skills training. By allowing access to Federal financial

aid, more people will have the opportunity to better their lives by working with a community college. This benefits everyone."

"We could not be more pleased about the approval of the process for Ability to Benefit in Mississippi, and the potential to impact hundreds of thousands more Mississippians without a diploma to access Federal financial aid who otherwise could not enroll or afford community college," said Paula Sammons, program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation overseeing the MIBEST grant. "Our founder, Will Keith Kellogg, said that education is the best way for truly improving one generation over another, and this is a path that offers the opportunity to do just that."

For additional information on the process for Ability to Benefit, please contact the Mississippi Community College Board at either 601-432-6518 or info@mccb.edu.

MDCC held Health Science Commencement

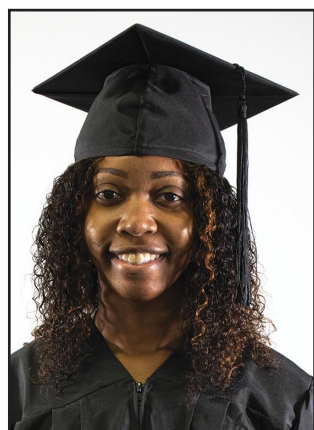
Press Release

Moorhead, Miss. - Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC) held its Health Science Pinning and Graduation Ceremony Thursday, May 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at Jim Randall on the Moorhead Campus. The ceremony included graduates from the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program, the Dental Hygiene Program, the Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) Program and the Radiologic Technology Program.

The procession was performed by Beverly Terrel and Derrick Fields provided the invocation with opening remarks by MDCC President Dr. Tyrone Jackson.

In total, sixty-nine students graduated from one of four health science programs. Each program prepares students for an exciting health-care career. Graduates of these programs are awarded an Associate of Applied Science Degree from Mississippi Delta Community College.

Thirty-nine individuals completed the ADN Program. The ADN Program is designed to provide educational opportunities to qualified students for a rewarding career that will help meet the expanding health care needs of the community. The program prepares the individual to practice as a Registered Nurse, according to the State of Mississippi Law. Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree.



JASMINE GIBSON OF LEXINGTON EARNED THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

the Dental Hygiene Technology Program. The Dental Hygiene Program provides students with a general education and a comprehensive clinical dental hygiene experience that prepares them for a career in the dental hygiene profession. The program includes clinical experience in treating patients throughout the lifespan with normal oral care and general systemic conditions. All phases of dental hygiene education are covered and practiced by clinical experience.

Eight individuals completed the MLT Program. In the laboratory, a highly skilled team of pathologists and medical technologists, MLT and specialists work together to solve the mysteries, put the puzzles together, and answer the critical questions of medicine. Seventy to eighty percent of medical decisions made by physicians are based on laboratory find-

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