

## Student Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. Why is UC sharing a proposed policy? When will a final policy be ready?

Starting in April, the University began engaging its community in a discussion about the details of a proposed COVID-19 vaccination policy. That consultation process indicated strong support for moving forward with a vaccination requirement now. UC is working on the policy details and expects that a final COVID-19 vaccination policy will be published in mid-July, ahead of the start of the fall 2021 academic term. To maintain campus safety, the COVID-19 vaccination requirement will apply not only to students, but to faculty, academic appointees, staff, postdoctoral researchers, trainees and all persons as a condition of physical access UC facilities.

### 2. Does the proposed policy require vaccination for all students or only those who participate in on-site activities?

The requirement to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination (or to submit a request for exception on medical, disability or religious grounds, or a deferral based on pregnancy) will take effect for all students as a condition of their in-person access to UC locations or programs (even if not at a UC location, such as a study abroad program) two weeks prior to the first day of instruction in the fall 2021 academic term. Those few students whose University programs are primarily remote would still need to provide proof of full vaccination or (or submit a request for exception or deferral) before returning to a campus.

### 3. What are the consequences of non-compliance for students?

We have seen strong interest in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine from people across California and the nation. We believe this demand will continue and most people will make the decision to be vaccinated against a virus that can cause serious disease and has killed more than 600,000 people in the United States alone. Students who choose not to be immunized and who do not receive an approved medical exemption, disability or religious belief exception or a deferral based on pregnancy will not meet UC's health and safety condition for attending in-person classes or events or access to campus facilities including housing, and will be limited to online course registration. Not all courses will be offered online.

### 4. How will these consequences be enforced?

UC campuses have systems in place for promoting and enforcing compliance with health and safety policies. Details relevant to promoting and enforcing compliance with the final policy will be communicated by each campus to its students.

### 5. What does 'fully vaccinated' mean? Does it refer to one or two shots depending on vaccine? Does it include a period of time after the dose for an immune response?

Under the final policy, UC will require students to show proof that they have received a full dosage of a vaccine ('fully vaccinated'), which currently is either one or two shots depending on the type and manufacturer. Students will be required to submit their proof of being fully

vaccinated at least two weeks before the first day of fall 2021 instruction at their campus. Students arriving more than two weeks ahead of the first day of instruction should also carefully review their UC student housing agreements for vaccination requirements as a condition of access to housing. For locations that do not operate on an academic calendar, the deadline to provide proof of being fully vaccinated will be two weeks before September 1, 2021. The COVID-19 vaccines in use, like most vaccines, take time to stimulate an antibody response that creates resistance to illness. Physical distancing, mask-wearing and frequent hand-washing and cleaning are expected to continue to be a part of campus life.

## **6. When does the proposed policy go into effect?**

The final policy will take effect immediately upon issuance, with the campus-specific deadline to submit of proof of vaccination—or request for an allowable exception (on medical, disability, or religious grounds) or deferral (based on pregnancy)—to be two weeks prior to the first day of instruction at the student’s campus. For locations that do not operate on an academic calendar, the deadline for such submittals will be two weeks prior to September 1, 2021. UC has been strongly encouraging students, faculty, academic appointees and staff to obtain a vaccination as soon as they are eligible.

## **7. Are medical exemptions or disability or religious accommodations allowed?**

Yes. Medical exemption and religious belief exception requests will be considered, and if approved, will result in students being subject to special requirements such as increased surveillance testing. More information will be included in the final policy. Model forms will be published with the final policy for adaptation or as-is use by each location. Students should use the forms adopted by their campus.

## **8. Does this requirement apply to Grad Students, who are generally categorized separately from undergrad students? Some of them are employed by University.**

The policy will require all graduate, undergraduate and professional students, and other personnel, who are accessing a UC facility or program in person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, subject to the allowable exceptions (on medical, disability, or religious grounds) or deferral (based on pregnancy). Additional Information will be in the final policy, expected to be issued in mid-July.

## **9. Who will maintain the student documentation?**

UC campuses already have systems in place for gathering immunization information, and those platforms will be used for this requirement. Students will be required to enter dates of vaccination and upload an image of their COVID-19 vaccination card through their Student Health Services portals, where they also provide evidence of their other required vaccinations. UC Student Health Services staff for each location will review and verify the information. Model forms will be published with the final policy for adaptation or as-is use by each location. Students should use the forms adopted by their campus.

## **10. How will exception or exemption requests be documented, and by whom?**

Much of the infrastructure for reviewing compliance with health policies is already in place to support the University’s overall immunization policy. However, each campus is working through the details of the systems for documenting students who request allowable exceptions (on

medical, disability, or religious grounds) or deferral (based on pregnancy). Model forms will be published with the final policy for adaptation or as-is use by each location. Students should use the forms adopted by their campus.

### **11. How can students get vaccines? Will UC offer vaccinations?**

In anticipation of the fall 2021 quarter, UC encourages students and their families to look for opportunities near their homes to be vaccinated, such as at local pharmacies. All people ages 12 and above across the United States are now eligible to receive a vaccine. In California, you may also seek a vaccination appointment online at [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or by calling 1-833-422-4255 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 8 pm or Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 5 pm. UC Student Health Services will also assist students in identifying opportunities for vaccination if they are unable to have vaccination doses completed near their place of residence.

### **12. Will a vaccine that is under emergency use authorization and not final FDA approval satisfy the requirement?**

Yes, all COVID-19 vaccines offered under the FDA's emergency use authorization (EUA) or full approval by the FDA, as expected in the coming months, will satisfy the vaccination requirement.

### **13. What if I am not eligible for a vaccine?**

All people ages 12 and above across the United States are now eligible to receive a vaccine. Students who are eligible for a vaccine but wish to decline it may qualify for an exception (on medical, disability, or religious grounds) or deferral (based on pregnancy) under the policy. To allow time for processing such requests, students should submit their requests as soon as possible after the policy is issued in mid-July, and no later than two weeks before the first day of instruction at their campus.

### **14. Will the University accept internationally approved vaccines even if not authorized or approved in the United States?**

Yes, if the vaccine authorized by the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int) (WHO).

The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](https://www.who.int) has developed a process for assessing and listing unlicensed vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics during a public health emergencies. Through that process, a number of vaccines not available in the United States have received Emergency Use Listing (EUL). A document summarizing the status of a wide range of international vaccines can be found [online on the WHO's website](https://www.who.int). If the mandate is adopted, the University will, consistent with [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and CDPH guidance, accept proof of vaccination with any international vaccine that has been authorized for emergency use by WHO through the EUL process. People who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination series with one of these vaccines *do not need* additional doses with an FDA-licensed or -authorized COVID-19 vaccine, at least initially (but may be subject to subsequent booster requirements). No data are available on the safety or efficacy of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized in the US after receipt of a non-FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. Those who are partially vaccinated or vaccinated with a vaccine not licensed or authorized by FDA and not authorized by WHO will be required to receive an FDA-licensed or -authorized vaccine no less than 28 days after their last international

vaccination. In the interim, they will be subject to special safety measures, like quarantine, frequent asymptomatic testing, and more extensive masking requirements.

**15. I was vaccinated in a country, where the government increased the time between first and second vaccines longer than US labeling. Do I have to be revaccinated?**

No. If you have proof of completing a series of any FDA-licensed or FDA- or WHO-authorized vaccine consistent with your country's implementation, you will be considered to have complied with the vaccine mandate.

**16. I cannot come back to campus 3-4 weeks before school starts, and I can't access any vaccine in my country. Will I be allowed on campus?**

Yes. You will be allowed on campus but will be referred to a vaccine site to get vaccinated immediately, unless you qualify for a University-approved exemption or exception. Until you are fully vaccinated, you will be subject to special safety measures, like quarantine, frequent asymptomatic testing, and more extensive masking requirements.

**17. Is the COVID-19 vaccination requirement a permanent change to the University's immunization policy that will continue the requirement in future years?**

Vaccination remains the most effective way to bring this pandemic to an end and to prevent a resurgence of the pandemic in local and campus communities. We strongly encourage everyone throughout all of our communities to be vaccinated as well as to continue physical distancing, mask-wearing and frequent hand-washing. The COVID-19 vaccination requirement will be a permanent update to the University's policies and will take effect beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year.

**18. Is immunization against influenza still required?**

A determination has not yet been made whether the influenza immunization requirement will be continued for the 2021-2022 academic year. Any changes or continuation of that requirement will be announced at a later date.