

COVID-19 Student Vaccination Policy

General. The University will require all students coming to campus beginning with the Fall 2021 semester to be fully-vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to minimize outbreaks of COVID-19 on campus and to promote the public health of the community, consistent with federal, State, and local efforts to stem the pandemic.

- All students must be fully-vaccinated and present proof to the University prior to coming to any University campus for (and following) the Fall 2021 semester for any reason, including moving into a residence hall, attending classes or events, participating in practicums or laboratories, and/or entering any campus building. This requirement applies to all matriculated or enrolled full-time or part-time students in any University school or program – undergraduate, professional or graduate – including joint programs, and to all visiting, exchange and similar students from other institutions participating in University classes.
- Student ID Cards will be turned off for campus access if the student has not complied with this policy.
- Fully-vaccinated means two weeks after the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, or two weeks after the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Currently, these are the only three vaccines authorized for use in the United States by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- International students who have received a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized for use in the United States will be managed on a case-by-case basis. They should contact VaccineSubmission@yu.edu for assistance. Unvaccinated international students should also contact VaccineSubmission@yu.edu for assistance in becoming fully-vaccinated promptly following arrival to the United States.
- Proof of vaccination means:
 - A completed CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card; or
 - Documentation signed by a healthcare provider licensed to practice medicine in the United States or a foreign country with the dates and name of the vaccine given; or
 - A NY Excelsior Pass; or
 - A Teudat Chisun from the Israeli Green Pass System or a completed Meuhedet Vaccination Certificate.

The proof should be sent by the student to VaccineSubmission@yu.edu at least two (2) weeks prior to arrival to campus.

- Students whose entire course of study is entirely web-based, a fully-online degree program, and/or fully remote, and have no physical presence on campus, are exempt from this policy.

- Exemptions may also be given on a case-by-case basis for medical or religious reasons. They are not automatically granted. Having had COVID-19 does not provide an exemption.
 - A (permanent or temporary) medical exemption may be given (i) if a student has a medical contraindication for COVID-19 vaccination and (ii) if failure to receive the vaccine does not prevent fulfillment of the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program, as determined by the University. Conditions comprising valid medical contraindications to vaccine administration include those set forth by the CDC. Such students must submit to VaccineExemptionRequest@yu.edu a written and signed/dated statement from a healthcare provider licensed to practice medicine in the United States or a foreign country stating that the vaccination is medically contraindicated, and giving the reasons for and duration of this contraindication. When a medical contraindication no longer exists, the exemption is terminated and the student must then comply with this policy. Medical exemptions generally will be reviewed on an annual basis.
 - A religious exemption also may be given (i) if the University determines that the vaccination conflicts with a student's genuine and sincere religious beliefs or practices, and (ii) if failure to receive this vaccination does not prevent fulfillment of the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program as determined by the University. A general philosophical or moral objection to vaccination will not be enough to serve as the basis for exemption on religious grounds. Such students must submit to VaccineExemptionRequest@yu.edu a written and signed/dated statement explaining how the vaccination conflicts with the student's bona fide religious beliefs or practices and acknowledging that the student was informed of the value of vaccination and has knowingly declined to receive the vaccination for religious reasons. The University may require additional supporting documentation and a personal meeting with the student.
 - The University will review and consider such exemption requests, and notify the requesting student of its decision.

The University reserves the right to change this policy, including due to the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance from governmental authorities.

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