



University Policy and Procedure Committee

Policy Title: COVID-19 Vaccination Policy	
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New <input type="checkbox"/> Supersedes existing (give name & number)	Date submitted: Proposed effective date: July 15, 2021
Purpose/Introduction/Background: Rush University is implementing a comprehensive COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all students participating in onsite activities. The University’s vaccination requirement is informed by our I CARE values – innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect, and excellence. The University is committed to executing these values with compassion and the requirement will strengthen the University’s ability to protect the health and safety of our campus and neighboring communities.	
Definitions: Fully-vaccinated as defined by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and WHO (World Health Organization).	
Policy Statement: The University requires that all students returning to campus be fully vaccinated with any COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use by FDA and WHO and to provide proof of vaccination. Online-only students with no on-campus presence are generally exempt from this policy. However, students in online only programs or any student that is approved for an exemption must follow the vaccination policy of any host site (including clinical or experiential rotations), which may require vaccination and proof thereof. Further, all students, including online learners, who anticipate a need to come to campus at any point during the course of the semester, must abide by the vaccination requirements set forth in this policy. In an effort to keep the campus community safe and healthy, the University will also continue to adhere to the public health guidelines that may include requiring a booster vaccination and additional measures deemed appropriate. Students should regularly check their emails/university policies for any updates or follow-up communications.	
Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline: The deadline for complying with this policy is to be fully vaccinated by the start of the first day of each term, or before coming to campus for any reason. Exceptions are outlined below. • Proof of vaccination: Proof of vaccination should be submitted to the college specific immunization process as specified below. Students are required to submit proof of vaccination only by using their Rush University email account. General questions are to be submitted to Student_Health@rush.edu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ College of Nursing: Students are expected to upload COVID-19 vaccination records into Exxat. 	

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- **Graduate College:** Students are expected to upload COVID-19 vaccination records into CastleBranch. *Students who do not have CastleBranch access to upload their COVID-19 vaccine records and received their vaccine from a non-Rush site need only to send their COVID-19 vaccine records to Student_Health@rush.edu.
- **College of Health Sciences:** Students are expected to upload COVID-19 vaccination records into CastleBranch. HSM Residential Students will send their COVID-19 vaccine records to Rush Employee Health.
NOTE: Student exemptions in the College of Health Sciences will be processed through Castlebranch.
- **Medical College:** Student vaccination records will be kept through Lifetime Medical Associates and entered directly into EPIC. Student questions are to be directed directly to Lifetime Medical Associates 312.942.8000 or email Mary_Nicholas@rush.edu.
- **Exemptions**
 - **Medical Exemption:** An exemption from this requirement for medical contraindications may be requested by providing documentation from the student's personal physician justifying the exemption. It is the student's responsibility to submit this request to Student_Health@rush.edu. Student Health will review the request and determine if the request will be granted.
 - **Religious Exemption:** An exemption based on a sincerely held religious belief may be requested by completing a written and signed application by the student detailing the student's objection to immunization based on a sincerely held religious belief. The objection must set forth the specific religious beliefs that conflict with the immunization. The religious objection may be personal and need not be directed by the tenets of an established religious organization. It is the student's responsibility to submit this application to Student_Health@rush.edu who will review the request and determine if the application will be granted.
- **Approved Exemptions Requirements**

If an exemption is approved, or a student does not comply with this policy, the student will be required to adhere to RUSH, CDC and public health measures including but not limited to engaging in masking, social distancing, adherence to symptom tracking and quarantine requirements, and possible routine COVID testing. Those with exemptions may further be subject to reasonable changes in academic and/or campus experiences. A university exemption does not include clinical rotations. Students who do not comply with vaccine requirements may be delayed or reassigned to alternative clinical rotations depending on availability. Students who receive a university exemption and are required to participate in clinical rotations that mandate vaccination may be unable to meet their degree requirements and thus place themselves at risk for delayed program completion, outside of the control of the College and University.

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- **Grace Period for Fall Semester 2021**

The purpose of this policy is to assure the safest environment possible at Rush University, in the classroom and clinical settings. It is not designed to delay enrollment or matriculation into any program, or to delay start dates for students. Students who are not vaccinated and do not have an approved exemption are expected to comply with vaccination as soon as possible. In the absence of full vaccination, these students may attend all campus activities, but are required to follow RUMC, State, and FDA guidelines including masking and maintaining social distance.

- **Grace Period for International Students**

International students who have not been vaccinated by an approved FDA or WHO approved vaccine, are expected to get vaccinated as soon as possible after arrival to Chicago and completing their quarantine requirement. Until fully vaccinated these students may attend the campus activities, but are required to follow RUMC, State, and FDA guidelines including masking and maintaining social distance.