



## THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

### RESOLUTION

To

### MANDATE COVID -19 VACCINATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR 2021 FALL TERM IN-PERSON CLASSES

June 28, 2021

**WHEREAS**, On March 13, 2020, as a result of the threat presented by the spread of the coronavirus also known as COVID -19, The City University of New York (the "University") announced, out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the University's students, faculty and staff, that effective on March 19, 2020 all University academic courses would be offered on-line or alternatively in a distance learning modality; and

**WHEREAS**, In March, 2020, New York City recorded its first death from COVID-19, and within one year, the City of New York lost more than 30,000 lives, more than 10 times the number of people who perished on Sept. 11, 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, As a result of the continuing threat posed by COVID-19, the University continued to deliver substantially all of its academic classes and courses in a mostly on-line or alternatively in a distance learning modality during the 2020 Fall Term and 2021 Spring Term; and

**WHEREAS**, There is no known cure for COVID-19 and it is a highly contagious severe respiratory illness that could lead to death; and

**WHEREAS**, There are currently three known effective vaccines being administered to combat the spread of COVID-19 which are manufactured respectively by the companies Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson (collectively the “COVID-19 Vaccines”); and

**WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 Vaccines have been proven to be effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in adults and in the case of one COVID-19 Vaccine, in children over the age of 16 and have been approved by the Centers for Disease Control (the “CDC”) and granted Emergency Use Authorization (“EUA”) by the Food and Drug Administration (the “FDA”); and

**WHEREAS**, The CDC has confirmed that individuals who are not vaccinated with a COVID-19 Vaccine are at risk of contracting COVID-19 and such individuals could also put others at risk through the transmission of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, During the last six months, through the administering of COVID-19 Vaccines throughout the City of New York and the State of New York, the number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths has significantly decreased to the point that many of the public access and density restrictions are being relaxed or lifted throughout the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, University desires to provide more in-person academic classes and courses offerings for the Fall 2021 Term; and

**WHEREAS**, On May 10, 2021 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo authorized the Boards of Trustees of The City University of New York and The State University of New York to mandate that all students planning to register for 2021 Fall Term in-person classes receive a COVID-19 Vaccine effective on the later of: (i) the beginning of the Fall Term; or (ii) when at least one of the COVID-19 Vaccines is fully licensed by the FDA and available to anyone who wants it; and

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to Consolidated Laws of New York, Title 7 also known as the Education Law, Section 6206, 7(a) provides in pertinent part that the University Board of Trustees “may prescribe conditions of student admission, attendance and discharge....;” and

**WHEREAS**, To ensure a safe return to campus classes, programs and facilities, the University Board of Trustees has concluded that it is in the best interest to mandate the vaccination of all students registering for 2021 Fall Term in-person classes with a COVID-19 Vaccine, subject in all cases to medical and religious exemptions and limitations of licensure as set forth in a University statement of policy and proof of vaccination adopted by the Board of Trustees

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, The University Board of Trustees hereby mandates, as requirement and condition for the admission and registration for 2021 Fall Term in-person classes that all such students receive a COVID-19 Vaccine, and that such mandate be effective on the later of: (i) the beginning of the 2021 Fall Term; or (ii) when at least one of the COVID-19 Vaccines is fully licensed by the FDA and available to anyone who wants it; and

**BE, IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED**, That the Statement of Policy and Proof of Vaccination for SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 (the “COVID-19 Vaccine Policy Mandate”), as such statement of policy is presented to the University Board of Trustees be, and it hereby is, approved, adopted and made a part of the University’s Manual of General Policy as Policy Number # 7.061, effective immediately; and

**BE, IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED**, That the University Board of Trustees authorize the Chancellor to make such additional changes and adjustments to said COVID- 19 Vaccine Policy Mandate and its implementation as he deems to be reasonably necessary and appropriate, to take into account and comply with any subsequent change in federal, state and/or municipal laws, regulations, or executive orders, as such relate to the COVID-19 virus and the related public health emergency; and that any and all such actions,

changes and adjustments to such COVID-19 Vaccine Policy Mandate taken by the University Chancellor, in accordance with the foregoing resolutions, be and they hereby approved and authorized, without further action of the University Board of Trustees.

**Policy: 7.061 SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)  
Vaccination Verification Program**

**Issuance Date: June \_\_, 2021**

**Effective Date: September \_\_, 2021**

**Scope: All City University of New York (the “University” or “CUNY”) locations and all students accessing University facilities and programs.**

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## **I. POLICY SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of The City University of New York (the “University”) community, including its students, faculty, academic appointees, staff, clinical professionals, students, and others who work, live, or learn in any of the University’s locations. The University strongly recommends that all members of the community obtain the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible. This policy requires all University Students (as hereinafter defined) attending fully in-person or hybrid courses in any University Facilities and Programs to be fully-vaccinated, subject to limited Exceptions and Exemptions, beginning before the start of the Fall 2021 term. Students accessing any University facilities will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Enforcement of the mandate will be delayed until full Food Drug Administration (the “FDA”) licensure (approval) and widespread availability of at least one vaccine. Those who do not receive a vaccination on campus or provide proof of vaccination by another provider may be subject to additional safety measures.

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## **II. DEFINITIONS**

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**COVID-19 Vaccination Program:** A vaccination program intended to reduce the incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection and resultant COVID-19 disease in the University community.

**Fully Vaccinated:** In general, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people are considered fully vaccinated: ±

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine
- At the time specified in either the FDA licensure or WHO approval, after the final administration of any other vaccines.

**Exception:** An Exception to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate based on a person’s sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance, which includes any traditionally recognized religion as well as beliefs, observances, or practices, which an individual sincerely holds and which occupy in their life a place of importance parallel to that of traditionally recognized religions. Requests for Exceptions must be submitted to authorized campus representatives, who vary by campus and requestor group. [LINK TO LIST] A person who is granted an Exception may be required to adhere to compensating or mitigating controls including additional Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions for the health and safety of the campus community.

**Healthcare Location:** A collection of buildings and personnel that service academic, clinics, or other locations where preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, or other interventional physical or behavioral healthcare services are provided to University staff and students, or research participants and any associated educational, research, or administrative facilities and offices. A Healthcare Location does not include student

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health and counseling centers and refers only to that part of a campus that meets this definition.

**Initial Allocation:** The period immediately following [Emergency Use Authorization](#) or [Licensing](#) of COVID-19 vaccine, and extending until the time when there are sufficient supplies of EUA-authorized or Approved COVID-19 vaccine to vaccinate all Students who wish to be vaccinated.

**Licensing:** The process used by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve commercial distribution of a biological drug like a vaccine.

**Location (or University Facility):** Any college campus, or facility operated by the University in connection with its research, teaching, public service, or clinical care missions or programs. A Location does not include a property owned by the University but leased to a third party unless (and only to the extent) a University Program occurs at that site.

**Location Vaccine Authority (LVA):** The office or person responsible for implementing the COVID-19 Vaccination Program for a Location, typically the Vice President for Finance and Administration or the Vice President for Student Affairs at a college campus. The LVA is a senior campus administrator and its records are considered confidential health records for purposes of the University's privacy policies.

**Medical Exemption:** An excuse from receiving COVID-19 vaccine due to medical contraindications or precautions recognized by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration ("FDA") or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). Requests for Medical Exemptions must be submitted to authorized University representatives, who vary by Location and requestor group. [LINK TO LIST] A person who is granted a Medical Exemption may be required to adhere to compensating controls including additional Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions for the health and safety of the University community.

**Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention (NPI):** An action, other than getting vaccinated or taking medicine, that members of the University community can take to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. These include, for example, staying home, especially when a person is sick, has a positive COVID-19 test, or when a member of the person's family or household is sick; quarantining when a person has been exposed to someone else with the illness or has a positive COVID-19 test; avoiding large gatherings; physical/social distancing; wearing personal protective equipment or face coverings; frequent handwashing and cleaning; and asymptomatic (surveillance) and symptomatic testing.

**Participation:** Receipt of information about COVID-19 vaccine and: (i) receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine at a Location, (ii) obtaining an Approved or EUA-authorized vaccination at an alternative site (e.g., a primary care physician's office, a public health clinic, a local pharmacy, or a vaccine fair) and providing documentation of vaccine status to the University, or (iii) University approval of an Exception or Medical Exemption request, documented on an approved Declination Form [NEED LINK]. Participation compliance under this policy for those receiving vaccine may require repeat vaccinations or boosters on an annual or recurring basis consistent with FDA-approved labeling and CDC recommendations. Students can also provide verification of a COVID-19 vaccination by submitting evidence of vaccination through the CUNYfirst portal, the Excelsior Passport, or other digital forms approved by CUNY.

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**Personnel:** University faculty, other academic appointees, and staff working, living, and/or learning on site, including but not limited to visiting, volunteer, without salary, and emeritus/a professors, visiting or volunteer academic appointees, and contract, recall, and emeritus/a employees.

**Surveillance Testing Protocol or “STP”:** All Students who provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccination may be subject to mandatory or random periodic testing conducted on a college campus or at a University Facility or Program.

**Students:** The term “student” has the same meaning as defined in New York Consolidated Laws, Title 7 or the Education Laws of New York as such apply to the University, currently: an individual for whom the University maintains student records and who: (i) is enrolled in or registered with an academic program of the University; (ii) has completed the immediately preceding term, is not presently enrolled, and is eligible for re-enrollment; or (iii) is on an approved educational leave or other approved leave status, or is on filing-fee status. The term includes some Trainees, as defined below. It also includes visiting students. It excludes individuals who are not currently living, working, and/or learning at a Location or participating in-person in a University Program.

**Trainees:** Medical, nursing, and other health professional students and residents, including visiting students and students of externally sponsored educational programs participating in rotations at Healthcare Locations; and undergraduate and graduate students who are volunteering, learning, and/or working in Healthcare Locations, for example at COVID testing/laboratory sites.

**University:** The City University of New York.

**University Program:** A program or activity operated by the University to support the University’s teaching or research mission and generally offered exclusively to University Personnel or Students. Examples of covered Programs that may not be conducted at a Location include affiliated third-party study abroad programs and University-sponsored athletics programs.

**Vaccine Approval:** For purposes of this policy, a COVID-19 vaccine is considered “approved” after the following conditions are met: (i) the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued a [License](#) for the vaccine; and (ii) the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended its administration. However, any vaccine administered under a [License](#) or an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA), or in the case of international students with the approval of the WHO, meets the vaccination requirements of this policy.

**Vaccine Information Statement (“VIS”):** An information sheet produced by or including information derived from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New York State Department of Health, or the New York City Department of Health and Hospitals or any of its components, explaining in plain language the benefits and risks of a vaccine to vaccine recipients. [ADD LINK] A VIS generally must be provided to an individual being vaccinated prior to each dose of the vaccine. For purposes of this policy, a VIS may also include U.S. Food and Drug Administration fact sheets for vaccine recipients and caregivers.

**Working, Living, and/or Learning on Site:** Accessing a University Facility or Program for any work-, research-, or education/training-related purpose (as distinguished from accessing a Healthcare Location to obtain healthcare services as a patient), including



living in housing furnished by the University, or using University facilities. Access is not defined by reference to any particular frequency (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly, *ad hoc*).

### **III. POLICY TEXT**

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This policy supplements, and does not replace, existing policies requiring University Personnel, Trainees, Students, patients, and visitors to observe Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions including appropriate use of either personal protective equipment (where required) or face coverings, social and physical distancing, frequent hand-washing and cleaning, and regular surveillance testing.

- A. COVID-19 Vaccination Program. All Students attending fully in-person or hybrid courses in any University Facility or Program in connection with their employment, appointment, or educational program must participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program by receiving information about the vaccine; and, by the date stated in the accompanying FAQ and posted on the University website, either (i) being fully vaccinated; or (ii) have received an approved Exception or Medical Exemption and submitting a **Vaccine Declination Form [LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT]**, as further described below. Students accessing any University facilities will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test if they are not fully vaccinated. Until the time at least one vaccine is fully Licensed and available to anyone who wishes to be vaccinated, participation may be delayed for some or all Students consistent with the procedures described under COMPLIANCE/RESPONSIBILITIES below.
1. Information. All Students shall receive information at the later of the time of course registration, the effective date of this policy, or the beginning of their educational program, at the time of each required vaccination activity, as part of ongoing training and education, or any combination thereof concerning:
    - a. The potential benefits of COVID-19 vaccination;
    - b. The potential health consequences of COVID-19 illness for themselves, family members and other contacts, fellow students, faculty, and the community;
    - c. Exposure to SARS-CoV-2;
    - d. The epidemiology and modes of transmission, diagnosis, and non-vaccine infection control strategies (such as the use of appropriate precautions, personal protective equipment or face coverings, and respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette), in accordance with their level of responsibility in preventing COVID-19 infections;
    - e. The safety profile and potential risks of any COVID-19 vaccine; and
    - f. Requirements for Participation in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program and consequences of failing to participate.

The information may be conveyed through any combination of written information statements (e.g., a VIS), verbal communications, or online or

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in-person training programs, consistent with applicable law and Location policies and practices.

Students with disabilities who require accommodations to access or complete any informational or educational materials or programs should contact their local student affairs or student disability management services office.

2. Receipt of Vaccine. Students may: (i) receive vaccination on site at any Location that offers COVID-19 vaccine; or (ii) provide written documentation to the Location Vaccine Authority or designee of vaccination through an alternative clinical site (e.g., at a private health care provider's office, pharmacy, public health clinic, or mass vaccination site).
3. Vaccine Declination. Students who receive an approved Exception or Medical Exemption may decline the COVID-19 vaccine by completing a Vaccine Declination Form [LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT] and submitting it to the Location Vaccine Authority by the date stated in the accompanying FAQ and posted on the University website, as provided under Compliance/Responsibilities below. A sample Vaccine Declination Form that may be utilized by any Location for this purpose is attached. The following procedures apply to vaccine declinations:
  - a. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and do not have an approved Exception or Medical Exemption on a Vaccine Declination Form [LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT] will not be cleared to attend fully in-person or hybrid courses in any University Facilities or Programs.
  - b. Any Students who are not vaccinated may be required to participate in or implement additional NPIs as directed by the LVA or designee to mitigate risk to other Students and the University community whenever they access University Facilities or Programs in person. These may include more frequent and regular asymptomatic testing or STP's.
  - c. Any Student with an approved Exception or Medical Exemption may nevertheless decide to become vaccinated. In this case, they are encouraged to discuss their plans with their primary care physicians, or local pharmacies, and may receive the vaccine through any of these and provide documentation of the administration to the LVA or designee.
4. Initial Allocation. During the period of Initial Allocation, Locations are encouraged but not required to mandate full program Participation (see Section IV.C below); however, Locations are expected to comply with applicable legal and policy requirements for providing information to

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individuals voluntarily receiving vaccine such as the information described in Section III.A.1 above.

- B. Superseding Public Health Directives or Health Conditions. In the event a federal, state, or local public health agency with jurisdiction imposes a mandate restricting or eliminating Participation options, the applicable public health mandate will be implemented at the affected Location(s). Inconsistent directives issued by agencies with overlapping jurisdiction should be discussed with the University's Office of General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor of Legal Affairs. In addition, observed spread at a particular location could warrant a change in these policies.
- C. Tracking and Reporting
1. The following information must be recorded and tracked by the Location Vaccine Authority or designee in the applicable confidential health record, consistent with University privacy and security policies ([Electronic Information Security Policy](#)): date of administration, vaccine type and manufacturer, and site of administration (e.g., University, Pharmacy, PCP, Mass Vaccination Site). Additional information must be recorded when vaccines are administered by the Location (e.g., vaccine lot number, expiration date, name/title of the person administering vaccine, address of the facility where the record of administration will reside, and version of VIS provided).
  2. Any adverse events associated with COVID-19 vaccine administered at a Location and reported to the University must be tracked and logged by the LVA or designee and reported to federal and state public health officials using the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#).
- D. Registry and Program Evaluation
1. While vaccine recipients ordinarily are permitted to opt out from registry reporting in the State of New York, the State of New York [has mandated](#) that all participating vaccinators report each dose of COVID-19 vaccine administered. Accordingly, the typical opt-out option does not apply.
  2. Individual Healthcare Locations shall, and other Locations may, evaluate Initial Allocation and, thereafter, program Participation, on an annual and ongoing basis, including evaluation of equity and disparities in Initial Allocation and program implementation; as well as reasons identified for non-participation or untimely participation, the number and characteristics of Students not vaccinated, and the reasons given (if any) for declination.
- E. Program Implementation and Enforcement
1. Program Participation is mandatory. Individuals eligible for an Exception or Medical Exemption may, after receiving appropriate information about the

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vaccine, consent to vaccination or submit a completed **Vaccine Declination Form** [LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT] to the Location Vaccine Authority. Declination may require additional compensating controls including additional Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions for the health and safety of the University community, as determined by the Location Vaccine Authority or designee.

2. Program implementation with respect to Students will be handled consistent with the procedural provisions of the [University Student Immunization Policy](#).
3. Any Students subject to this policy who fail to participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program as described in section E.1 above by the date stated in the accompanying FAQ and posted on the University website (i.e., by being fully vaccinated or receiving an Exception or Medical Exemption and submitting a written **Vaccine Declination Form**) [LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT] may be prohibited from attending fully in-person or hybrid courses to any University Facilities or Programs, including University housing.

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## IV. COMPLIANCE / RESPONSIBILITIES

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- A. CDC and FDA generally translate VIS into many languages commonly spoken in the State of New York and elsewhere in the United States and post these online. The relevant VIS should be provided to a person receiving vaccine in a language that they understand. In the event relevant VIS translations are unavailable, they should be accompanied when distributed with a document with [taglines such as those approved by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to facilitate language access by all affected Personnel, Trainees, and Students](#). Interpreters should also be made available in person, by video, or by phone during vaccine clinics.
- B. Each Location is responsible for: (i) assuring any necessary updates are made to its local Infectious Diseases/Infection Prevention and Control Programs; (ii) Enforcing the CUNY-wide established deadlines for COVID-19 Vaccination Program Participation on an annual or ongoing basis, in consultation with epidemiology and infection prevention experts and occupational health representatives as applicable and consistent with any supply limitations; and (iii) assuring implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program at all sites.
  1. Each Location, in consultation with the Location Vaccine Authority and others, as appropriate, shall develop and publicly post its plans for Initial Allocation of vaccine and any subsequent periods of shortage, consistent with guidelines and directives published by federal, state, and local authorities, including the ethical principles articulated by the U.S. Advisory

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Committee on Immunization Practices: (1) maximize benefits and minimize harms; (2) promote justice; (3) mitigate health inequities; and (4) promote transparency.

2. Implementation includes informing Students of the requirement and deadline for program Participation, dates and Locations for on-site administration, and that vaccines will be provided at no cost to recipients.
  3. Each Location should implement strategies for vaccine access, including efforts to ensure vaccination availability during all work shifts and to address vaccine hesitancy, particularly among groups at most significant risk for contracting COVID-19 and suffering severe illness.
  4. Timing for implementation will depend on timing of Vaccine Approval, recommendations of federal and state public health authorities, and the availability of vaccine from suppliers. As a general matter, the vaccine mandate (subject only to University-approved Exceptions and Medical Exemptions described above), will be effective on the later of: (i) the beginning of the Fall Term; or (ii) when at least one COVID-19 vaccine is fully [Licensed](#) by FDA and available to anyone who wants it. Students are strongly encouraged to get their vaccines before coming to campus.
- C. Presidents, Deans, Vice Presidents, Vice Chancellors and leaders at non-campus locations are responsible for implementing this policy. Student affairs leaders and others with responsibility for Students will support program implementation and enforcement.
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## V. PROCEDURES

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Each Location may establish local procedures to facilitate implementation of this policy.

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## VI. RELATED INFORMATION

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- [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – Ethical Principles for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine – United States, 2020 \(MMWR Nov. 23, 2020\)](#) and [Meeting Information \(November 23 and December 1, 2020\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 Vaccine Training: General Overview of Immunization Best Practices for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [FDA COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [FDA Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (includes fact sheet and translations)
- [FDA Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (includes fact sheet and translations)

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- [FDA Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (includes fact sheet and translations)
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [CDC COVID Vaccination Program Planning Guidance](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Recommendation Process](#)
- [American Medical Association, Opinion 8.7, Routine Universal Immunization of Physicians and KB O'Reilly, \*Are Physicians Obligated to Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19?\* \(November 16, 2020\)](#)
- [Infectious Disease Society of America – COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Note on the Morality of Using Some Anti-COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (December 21, 2020)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#)
- [CUNY Coronavirus Page](#)
- [CUNY's Fall 2021 Reopening Plans](#)
- [CUNY Coronavirus Liaisons](#). The Liaison is the individual who will receive, compile and report COVID-19 exposures, either via the submission of the NYS Daily Health Screening Template (described below under 'Screening'), or via campus screeners if an in-person screening is completed on campus. They, along with the Campus Coronavirus Coordinator, will work with the Department of Health regarding on-campus tracing.
- [NYS DOH COVID-19 Report Card \(Higher Education Institution Category\)](#): The Report Card has institution's information including number of individuals quarantining, hospitalizations, and fatalities.

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## I. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. ***What is the relationship between this policy and the currently posted interim policy?*** This policy, if approved, will become effective at the beginning of the 2021 Fall Term and at that time will replace the posted interim policy.
2. ***Am I required to be fully vaccinated to attend school?*** All Students registering for a fully in-person or hybrid class for the 2021 Fall Term must be fully vaccinated in order to access University Facilities and Programs, unless they have been granted an **Exception** or **Medical Exemption** (as defined in the Policy) and submitted a **Vaccine Declination Form [LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT]** to the Location Vaccine Authority.
3. ***What does it mean to be “fully vaccinated”?*** In general, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people are considered fully vaccinated:
  - 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
  - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine
  - At the time specified in either the FDA licensure or WHO approval, after the final administration of any other vaccines.
4. ***Am I required to be fully vaccinated to access University facilities?*** No. Students accessing any University facilities will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test.
5. ***Will I be able to register for 2021 Fall Term Classes without being fully vaccinated?*** Yes, you will be able to register for classes prior to vaccination, but you will have to show proof of vaccination (or receive an exemption) two weeks prior to coming to campus, but no later than August 10, 2021, in order to attend fully in-person or hybrid classes or live in a residence hall this fall.
6. ***What happens if the FDA does not grant full approval to any vaccine before the fall term begins?*** All students will participate in the testing program only until approval is granted, but all students are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated as soon as a vaccine is available to them.
7. ***What happens if the FDA approves a vaccine after the term begins?*** Students will be required to follow the vaccination policy and be vaccinated and the deadlines for submitting proof of vaccination will be posted on the University and college websites.
8. ***How can I upload or submit my vaccination documentation?*** Students can provide verification of a COVID-19 vaccination by submitting evidence of



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vaccination through the CUNYfirst portal, the Excelsior Passport, or other digital forms approved by CUNY.

9. **What is the deadline for uploading or submitting my vaccination documentation?** Complete vaccination documentation must be uploaded or submitted two weeks prior to your arrival on campus, but no later than August 10, 2021. Please consult with your academic adviser or program coordinator to confirm your on-campus start date.
10. **How do I apply for an Exception or a Medical Exemption?** Procedures vary at each Location or campus. See [\[LINK TO LIST\]](#). Exemption requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis; they are NOT automatically granted.
11. **What are acceptable reasons for requesting an Exception or a Medical Exemption?** Enrolled students may request an exemption from the requirement that they submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination for medical or religious reasons.

Students requesting an exemption for religious reasons will be required to submit a written statement, signed by the student or signed by a parent or legal guardian if the student is a minor, explaining how immunization conflicts with the student's religious beliefs. A religious exemption is not the same as a philosophical, moral, or conscientious exemption.

Students requesting an exemption for medical reasons will be required to submit a statement from a doctor or advanced practice nurse explaining the medical contraindication and the time period for which the exemption is being requested. Medical exemptions are reviewed annually.

12. **What access will students granted Exceptions or Medical Exemptions have to in-person classes or University Facilities and Programs?** For those granted exemptions, on-campus participation is not guaranteed, and is dependent on the overall course of the pandemic, the rate and efficacy of vaccination, and the student's academic program. Those granted exemptions from COVID-19 immunizations will be directed to the appropriate University department or college Student Affairs Office to develop an implementation plan, which may include applying for feasible and applicable accommodations. Students granted exemptions will not be able to live in on-campus housing during the COVID-19 health emergency.
13. **If I receive an approved Exception or Medical Exemption and decline the vaccine, what will apply to me?** Currently all Students must comply with state and local health orders and with Location-specific policies regarding Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions including personal protective equipment or face coverings, social and physical distancing, frequent hand washing, regular cleaning and disinfection, and routine surveillance testing. Additional safety measures, such as quarantine upon initial arrival to campus and increased



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surveillance testing frequency, may be deemed necessary by the University, local public health, environmental health and safety, occupational health, or infection prevention authorities, including the Location Vaccine Authority (LVA). In that case, a person who has received an approved Exception or Medical Exemption and submitted a **Vaccine Declination Form [LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT]** to the LVA will be informed of any additional requirements.

14. ***How will I know if my fellow Students are going unvaccinated?*** The University will not disclose vaccine status of individual Students to fellow Students; however, third parties and some Locations may distribute badge attachments, stickers, pins, or other indicators that vaccinated individuals may use to show that they have received the vaccine.
15. ***I am immunocompromised and have been told that my vaccination may not fully protect me. How can I protect myself when the University is not requiring all Personnel, Trainees, and Students to be vaccinated?*** Please contact your local disability services office to discuss your situation and reasonable accommodations.
16. ***Will the University specify which authorized or licensed vaccine is preferred?*** The University supports the principle that all EUA-authorized vaccines are very effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 and in decreasing the odds of hospitalization and death. In order to reach herd immunity, the University recommends that every effort be made to maximize vaccine uptake across the University systems and more widely. This can be achieved by maximizing access, minimizing barriers, and ensuring that our communities are vaccinated within the shortest timeframe. As stated by the **CDC**, the best vaccine is the one that you are eligible to receive and that you can get today.
17. ***What if I experience flu-like symptoms as a result of the vaccine or after being fully vaccinated? What if I get a positive result on a COVID-19 test? Does that mean I cannot attend classes?*** Students should contact their faculty/instructors regarding minor illnesses or disability services to address any significant issues. As a general matter, if you are experiencing flu like symptoms, such as fever, persistent cough, or chills, or if you have a positive COVID-19 test, you should remain home, seek the attention of a medical care provider, and return campus when you recover.
18. ***Does this policy apply to contractors? Volunteers?*** Employees of contractors, independent contractors, and volunteers who work side-by-side with University Personnel or Trainees, or Students, or who have direct contact with Students, will be asked to participate in the mandatory **Surveillance Testing Protocol**.

# The City University of New York

## SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

19. **Who will pay for the vaccine?** Initial supplies have been paid for by the federal government. Vaccines administered by the State of New York and the City of New York as part of the CDC's national vaccination program are administered free of charge. In addition, local pharmacies, health clinics and primary care providers are also providing access to COVID-19 Vaccines free of charge. You should consult the CUNY website as to locate the nearest vaccination center.
20. **How will enforcement work for failure to participate in the program?** Efforts will be made to encourage Participation by receiving education and *either* receiving vaccine or declining vaccine after receiving an approved Exception or Medical Exemption. Those who, following these efforts, fail to participate entirely, will be barred from in-person access to University Facilities and Programs, and may experience consequences as a result.
21. **I am at high risk for severe illness if I contract COVID-19 and even though I have been vaccinated, I know that no vaccine is 100% effective. Do I have to come to class or campus if fellow Students are not all vaccinated? What accommodation will be made for me?** Please contact your local student's disability services office or campus Student Affairs Office to discuss your situation and available accommodations.
22. **Am I required to get a booster shot?** Participation compliance under this policy for those receiving vaccine may require repeat vaccinations or boosters on an annual or recurring basis consistent with FDA-approved labeling and CDC recommendations. More information on this requirement will be forthcoming.
23. **What is the current state of COVID-19 infection at CUNY?** See the [NYS DOH COVID-19 Report Card \(Higher Education Institution Category\)](#). This Report Card has institution's information including number of individuals quarantining, hospitalizations, and fatalities.

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## II. REVISION HISTORY

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First Effective Date: June \_\_, 2021

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## III. APPENDIX

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- A. [Vaccine Information Statement](#) [COMING SOON]
- a. [FDA EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) (Janssen)
  - b. [FDA EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) (Pfizer-BioNTech)
  - c. [FDA EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) (Moderna)
- B. [Model Acknowledgement Form](#)
- C. [Model Declination Form](#)

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SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

Note: The model forms are provided for convenience only and may be adapted by locations consistent with applicable policies and practices.