



COVID-19 Student Vaccination Requirement Policy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

NOTE: *This FAQ is supplemental to Pacific Oaks College's Student official COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement Policy. Please review the full policy for more information. If you have additional questions, please contact studentvaccinations@pacificoaks.edu.*

Vaccination Requirement Policy

1. When does the policy go into effect?

For all students of the Pasadena & San Jose campuses, and Online students wishing to visit a Pacific Oaks College facility or participate in a Pacific Oaks College event, this policy takes effect immediately, with a College deadline for submitting proof of vaccination by November 1, 2021. All Students seeking an exemption must submit the required documentation prior to the November 1, 2021 deadline.

- a.) The first dose of an approved two-dose COVID vaccine series or an approved single-dose COVID-19 vaccine as defined in this policy by September 27, 2021 and provide proof of full vaccination as defined in this policy by November 1, 2021, or
- b.) Weekly proof of a negative COVID-19 test starting the week of November 1, 2021 for approved medical or religious exemptions.

2. Is this a one-time mandate or will I be required to get boosters or annual shots?

This is a permanent policy. Pacific Oaks College anticipates that the CDC may update the definition of Fully Vaccinated once booster shots are available and, to continue to be classified as Fully Vaccinated, students will be required to obtain the booster shot and to provide proof of vaccination. Students will be notified of the deadline for compliance once additional information about boosters is available.

3. How can I get a vaccine?

[Find a vaccination site near you.](#)

4. Who will pay for the vaccine?

[COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone in the United States at no cost, regardless of insurance or immigration status.](#) Vaccines were paid for with taxpayer dollars and will be given to all people living in the United States.

5. What if I am not eligible for a vaccine?

All people ages 12 and older across the United States are now eligible to receive a vaccine.

6. Who can I contact with questions?

Please send your questions to: studentvaccinations@pacificoaks.edu. A member of our COVID-19 response team will respond as quickly as possible.

Exemptions

7. If I have applied for or been granted an exemption, what additional safety measures will I be required to observe?

See the Pasadena/San Jose Student Return To Campus Plans on the POC Community Site for additional safety measures. Additional safety measures may be deemed necessary, depending on the circumstances, by local public health, environmental health and safety, occupational health, or infection prevention authorities. In that case, a person who has received an approved exemption (or whose request is pending) will be informed of any additional requirements.

For Students on the Pasadena & San Jose campuses, at least weekly COVID-19 testing will be required.

We will accommodate Students on a case-by-case basis. Alternative remote instructional programming is provided at the discretion of the College. Virtual/remote instructional modality is not a required component of an accommodation, and it is not expected to be available in most cases. It will be provided as an option when feasible and academically indicated. All remote/virtual instruction ends December 31, 2021. At such time, students will have to choose online-only programming, if available to continue their studies at POC.

8. I am pregnant. Will I be eligible for a medical exemption?

You will be eligible for a temporary medical exemption throughout your pregnancy. To be eligible beyond that point, you must file for a disability accommodation. To request a temporary exemption during your pregnancy, please submit a completed PO Student Medical Vaccination Exemption Form, along with all necessary corresponding information.

POC strongly recommends that all students, trainees, and personnel be vaccinated unless they have [contraindications](#) or [precautions](#), as defined by the CDC. Contraindications and precautions are a condition that may increase the risk for a serious adverse reaction to the vaccine, may cause diagnostic confusion if the vaccine is administered, or may compromise the ability of the vaccine to produce immunity.

9. I was recently diagnosed with COVID-19, and/or I had an antibody test that shows that I have natural immunity. Does this support a medical exemption?

You are eligible for a temporary medical exemption for up to 90 days after your diagnosis of COVID-19. Per CDC guidelines, a person treated with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma should wait 90 days before receiving a vaccine.

Also, per CDC guidelines, people who are currently ill with COVID-19 should not obtain a vaccine until they have fully recovered.

If you have a positive antibody test, those test results do not meet the criteria for a medical exemption. According to the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#), "a positive result from an antibody test does not mean you have a specific amount of immunity or protection from SARS-CoV-2 infection. Currently authorized SARS-CoV-2 antibody tests are not validated to evaluate specific immunity or protection

from SARS-CoV-2 infection.” For this reason, individuals who have had an antibody test are not exempt from vaccination.

Proof of Vaccination

10. How do I upload my vaccine information and card?

New and continuing Students will upload proof using the proof of vaccination link on the homepage of the POC Community Site.

To upload your proof of vaccination:

1. Using a cell phone or camera, take a clear picture of the front of your vaccination card (make sure your name, date of birth, manufacturer, and the date(s) of vaccination are clearly visible OR save a copy of your digital vaccination record in pdf format.

2. PO Community Site homepage or the PO Student Gateway homepage

3. From the homepage of either the PO Community Site or the Student Gateway, click on the orange button called “Submit Proof of Vaccination” (located below the Quick Links Section).

The screenshot shows the Pacific Oaks Community Site homepage. The 'Quick Links' section on the left includes buttons for Student Gateway, Employee Intranet, Canvas, IT Help, Academic Calendar, and Academic Portal. Below these is a 'Submit Proof of Vaccination' button, which is highlighted in orange and has a pink arrow pointing to it. The 'Special Announcements' section lists COVID-19 related policies. The 'Community Calendar' shows events for September 2021, including Welcome Week and Labor Day. The 'Follow Us' section displays social media icons and a tweet from Pacific Oaks College.

4. Complete all required fields on the web-based Proof of Vaccination form.

5. Click on the space to upload your picture of your Vaccination Card or digital vaccination record.

6. Finish by clicking submit.

7. Your submission will be reviewed, and you will receive an email notification once your submission has been approved. If your submission is rejected, you will receive an explanation with steps to resolve and resubmit.

11. I lost my vaccine card.

Contact the site where you received your vaccine. They may be able to provide you with proof of vaccination. You can also [contact your state's health department](#). Some states have registries that include adult vaccines.

12. I have two vaccine cards.

If you received separate vaccine cards for each dose of a multi-dose vaccine (e.g., Pfizer, Moderna), please upload a photo or scanned copy of the front of each card.

13. I made a mistake uploading my vaccination documentation (e.g., card photo).

If you made an error, you may update your record at any time. Follow the upload instructions to upload a different file.

14. Do I have to wait until I receive the final dose to upload my proof of vaccination?

No. You may submit proof with each dose received.

15. How do I know if my proof of vaccination was accepted?

After you complete the upload process, it will take our team about one week to review your information. If there are any issues with your proof of vaccination, we will contact you by email. You do not need to check the status of your upload. We will contact you if there is a concern.

16. How are you maintaining the security of my vaccine information?

Your vaccine information will be treated as confidential medical information and only limited individuals will have access to the information. The information will be maintained in accordance with all applicable laws and public health regulations.

17. How will vaccination data be used?

Vaccination data will be used to confirm compliance with this policy, track community vaccination rates, and to comply with federal, state, and/or local public health guidelines. The information will be maintained in accordance with all applicable laws and public health regulations.

18. How will I know if fellow Students are unvaccinated?

You won't know. Because vaccination-related information is private and confidential, POC will not disclose the vaccine status of Employees or Students except on a need-to-know basis.

Applicability to Students

19. Does this policy apply to POC Online Campus Students?

Online Campus or remote Students who desire to utilize any in-person student support services or meetings or participate in any in-person POC-sponsored event will be required to meet the vaccination requirement prior to attending those events.

If you have questions about whether this applies to you, please contact:
studentvaccinations@pacificoaks.edu

International Vaccines

20. Will POC accept internationally approved vaccines even if not authorized or approved in the United States?

Yes, if the vaccine is authorized by the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO assesses and lists unlicensed vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics during public health emergencies. Several vaccines not available in the United States have received Emergency Use Listing (EUL).

A document summarizing the status of international vaccines can be found online on the WHO's website (click on link to status of COVID-19 vaccines in the EUL/PQ evaluation process). Consistent with CDC guidance, POC will accept proof of Full Vaccination with any international vaccine that has been authorized for emergency use by WHO through the EUL process. Full Vaccination is defined as two weeks post completion of a COVID-19 Vaccine series (for example, one dose of the Janssen/J&J vaccine, or two doses within no more than 12 weeks of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines).

Those who are not Fully Vaccinated generally 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 treated as if they are not Fully Vaccinated.

21. I was vaccinated in another country where the government increased the time between first and second vaccines to longer than advised. 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 been Fully Vaccinated.

Exemption Requests

22. How do I request a Medical/Online/Religious Exemption?

To request exemption from the student vaccination policy for medical or religious reasons, or for fully-online/remote students, please visit our COVID-19 resource page at pacificoaks.edu/studentvaccinations. From the COVID-19 resource page, scroll to the section titled "How to Submit an Exemption Request" and download the form that corresponds to the type of exemption you are requesting. Please note: Medical and Religious exemption requests require third party information.

Once you have completed all required information on your exemption form, and obtained the third party information (for Medical or Religious Exemptions), return to the COVID-19 resource page at pacificoaks.edu/studentvaccinations and return to the "How to Submit an Exemption Request" section. Click where it says, "[Upload your completed form by clicking here](#)" and follow the instructions for uploading your document.

Submission of an exemption request does not guarantee an exemption shall be granted. All requests will go through a thorough review process and you will be notified of the decision based upon the information you submit. If an exemption is granted, you will be required to abide by our weekly COVID-19 testing policy, outlined in the [Pacific Oaks College COVID-19 Student Vaccination Requirement Policy](#).