

## UNIVERSITY POLICY

<b>Policy Name:</b>	Interim COVID-19 Immunization Record Requirement for Students				
<b>Section #:</b>	10.3.14	<b>Section Title:</b>	Academic: Student Services & Other Student Related Policies and Programs	<b>Formerly Book:</b>	n/a
<b>Approval Authority:</b>	RBHS Chancellor/Executive Vice President for Health Affairs	<b>Adopted:</b>	04/13/2021	<b>Reviewed:</b>	
<b>Responsible Executive:</b>	RBHS Chancellor/Executive Vice President for Health Affairs	<b>Revised:</b>			
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Student Health Services; RBHS, RU-NB, RU-NWK, RU-C	<b>Contact:</b>	Covid19@rutgers.edu		

### 1. Policy Statement

This interim policy details the COVID-19 immunization record requirements for all Rutgers University students.

### 2. Reason for Policy

To minimize outbreaks of COVID-19 among students; to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among all persons at Rutgers University and Rutgers-affiliated health care units; and to promote the public health of the community consistent with federal, State, and local efforts to stem the pandemic.

### 3. Who Should Read this Policy

All Rutgers students, deans, program directors, student affairs, and student health services staff.

### 4. Resources

[University Policy 10.3.13: Student Immunizations and Health Requirements](#)

[University COVID-19 Information](#)

[New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub](#)

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) Vaccine Recommendations | CDC](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

N.J.S.A. 18A:61D-1, et seq.

N.J.A.C. 8:57-6.1, et seq.

[Rutgers Immunization Portal](#)

## 5. Definitions

**COVID-19:** COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a new coronavirus discovered in 2019.

**COVID-19 immunization:** Administration of a complete series of any COVID-19 vaccine 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). As of the date of this interim policy, there are currently three COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the FDA for emergency use and recommended by the ACIP: two mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) and one viral vector vaccine (Janssen [Johnson & Johnson]).

## 6. The Policy

### I. Immunization Record and Health Requirements

All students planning to attend in the Fall 2021 semester must present evidence of COVID-19 immunization at least 2 weeks prior to coming onto campus for any reason, including but not limited to moving into a residence hall, attending campus classes, and/or entering any campus building. Evidence of immunization must be uploaded to the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) as soon as the series is completed and prior to arrival on campus.

International students vaccinated with a COVID vaccine authorized for use in the United States by the FDA and recommended by the ACIP may also upload documentation signed by a healthcare provider licensed to practice medicine in the United States or a foreign country of the dates and name of COVID-19 vaccination given. International students who have received COVID-19 vaccines not authorized for use in the United States will be managed on a case-by-case basis. Students arriving in the United States will not be allowed on campus for a period of 2 weeks following the final dose of the COVID-19 immunization.

This interim policy is subject to change based on factors such as the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance from governmental authorities.

### II. Exemptions for Requirements

Other than the exceptions/exemptions listed below, this interim policy shall apply to every student matriculated or enrolled full-time or part-time in a Rutgers school or program, including joint and collaborative programs with other institutions, and to all visiting, exchange, and special-program students from other institutions.

- A. Students whose entire course of study is entirely web-based, a fully online degree program, and/or fully remote. To qualify, the student must have no physical presence on campus.
- B. Individuals participating in fully online or off-campus Continuing Education Programs.
- C. Students may be exempted from the COVID-19 immunization record requirement if they have a medical contraindication for COVID-19 immunization and if failure to receive this immunization does not prevent fulfillment of the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program. Conditions comprising valid medical contraindications to vaccine administration are those set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Such students must upload a written statement from a healthcare provider licensed to practice medicine in the United States or a foreign country stating that a specific immunization is medically contraindicated, and giving the reasons for and duration of this contraindication to the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) for review. These written healthcare provider's statements shall become part of the student's immunization record and shall be reviewed periodically by a health professional from the

campus Student Health Services or an infectious disease expert to determine whether this exemption shall remain in effect. When a medical contraindication no longer exists, the student must then comply with the immunization record requirement of this interim policy. Waiver forms can be found on the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#). The University shall provide reasonable accommodations to those students whose medical condition contraindicates COVID-19 immunization so long as the failure to be immunized will not prevent the student from fulfilling the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program.

- D. A student may be considered for exemption from the COVID-19 immunization record requirement if the student uploads to the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) for review a written signed statement explaining how immunization conflicts with the student's bona fide religious beliefs or practices, and if failure to receive this immunization does not prevent fulfillment of the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program. A general philosophical or moral objection to immunization shall not suffice as the basis for exemption on religious grounds. The student shall be required to acknowledge in writing that the student was informed of the value of immunization and has knowingly declined to have COVID-19 immunization for religious reasons. Waiver request forms can be found on the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#). The University shall provide reasonable accommodations to those students whose religious beliefs bar COVID-19 immunization so long as the failure to be immunized will not prevent the student from fulfilling the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program.

### **III. Record keeping requirements**

Acceptable documents serving as evidence of COVID-19 immunization may include:

- A. A completed CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card; or medical records signed by a licensed health care provider indicating vaccine name and dates of administration;
- B. Information uploaded directly into the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) by Rutgers as part of administration of COVID-19 vaccine at an on-campus Rutgers COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic POD (Point of Dispensing) or a Rutgers Student or Occupational Health Office; or
- C. For internationally administered vaccines, licensed healthcare provider signed documentation of dates and name of COVID-19 vaccination.