

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Policy Name:	Interim-COVID-19 Immunization Record Requirement for Students				
Section #:	10.3.14	Section Title:	Academic: Student Services & Other Student Related Policies and Programs	Formerly Book:	n/a
Approval Authority:	RBHS Chancellor/Executive Vice President for Health Affairs	Adopted:	04/13/2021	Reviewed:	<u>11/02/2021</u>
Responsible Executive:	RBHS Chancellor/Executive Vice President for Health Affairs	Revised:	<u>11/02/2021</u>		
Responsible Office:	Student Health Services; RBHS, RU-NB, RU-NWK, RU-C	Contact:	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~~ in the Rutgers University community; to prevent ~~or~~ and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among all persons at Rutgers University and Rutgers-affiliated healthcare units; and to promote the public health of the community in a manner consistent with federal, State, and local efforts to stem the COVID-19 pandemic as well as federal and State law.

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](#)

[Universitywide 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](#)

All policies are subject to amendment. Please refer to the Rutgers University Policy Library website (policies.rutgers.edu) for the official, most recent version.

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 approved and/or 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 no later than the beginning of the first semester or session for which the student is enrolled for classes or such earlier time as the University may direct.~~

International students vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine approved and/or authorized for use in the United States by the FDA and recommended by the ACIP also may also upload documentation signed by a healthcare provider licensed to practice medicine in the United States or a foreign country. ~~of~~ Such documentation must include the dates and name of COVID-19 vaccination given and the date(s) of administration. Other forms of documentation may be considered in accordance with applicable law. International students who have ~~received~~ been vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine that has not been approved and/or authorized for use in the United States, will be managed on a case-by-case basis but which has been approved for use by the World Health Organization (WHO) and which was administered to the student outside the United States, will be considered compliant with this Policy upon providing acceptable documentation of full vaccination in accordance with WHO guidance for that vaccine. ~~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 in this Section II, Paragraphs A through D 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.~~ Certain degree-granting programs at Rutgers are entirely online. Students enrolled in those programs generally do not receive Rutgers student identification, are not given access to Rutgers campus resources, and are not expected to have any physical presence on campus during the course of their pursuit of a Rutgers degree. Students enrolled in such fully online degree-granting programs are exempt from this policy. Matriculated students who select courses denoted as "remote," but who are not enrolled in a fully online degree-granting program, are not exempt.

- B. ~~Individuals participating in fully online or off-campus non-degree Continuing Education Programs that occur fully online or off-campus are not subject to this policy.~~
- C. ~~A s~~Students may be ~~exempted~~ considered for an exemption from the COVID-19 immunization record requirement if ~~they have~~ the student has 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 and signed 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 a religious exemption from the COVID-19 immunization record requirement if the student uploads to the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) for review a written signed statement signed by the student (or the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor) 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, but may not be limited to, the following:

- A. A completed CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy; or medical records signed by a licensed health care provider indicating vaccine name and dates of administration in compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy;
- ~~A.B.~~ An official record of immunization from the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy;
- C. 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
- ~~B.D.~~ A military immunization or health record from the United States Armed Forces indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy; or

~~C.E.~~ For internationally administered vaccines, ~~licensed healthcare provider-~~
signed documentation from a health care provider licensed to practice
medicine in the United States or a foreign country of the dates and name of
COVID-19 vaccination, indicating compliance with the immunization
requirements of this policy.