

COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY - STUDENTS

I. Purpose

Consistent with its commitment to providing and maintaining a living and learning environment that is free of recognized hazards, Elmhurst University has adopted this policy to safeguard the health and well-being of employees and their families; our Elmhurst University students and visitors; others who spend time in our facilities; and the community from infectious conditions that may be mitigated through an effective vaccination program. This policy is intended to comply with all state and local laws. It is based upon guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and public health and licensing authorities, as applicable.

II. Scope/Applicability

This policy applies to all undergraduate and graduate students who attend classes on campus or who plan to be on campus for any reason beginning August 10, 2021.

III. Policy

Elmhurst University requires all students to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 on or before August 10, 2021 in order to be permitted on University premises. Students may apply for medical or religious exemptions under the standards set forth below. Those who receive an exemption from the vaccination requirement may be subject to best practice public health safety measures for unvaccinated students, including face-covering requirements, testing protocols, and/or other safety measures while present on campus. To establish that they have received a vaccination, students must present written evidence of immunization from the designated vaccination site or from another authorized healthcare provider to Student Health Services.

IV. Vaccine Administration

Students are fully vaccinated no earlier than two weeks after receiving the final recommended dose(s) of an FDA- or WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccine or a COVID-19 vaccine granted Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA. Students are responsible for scheduling and obtaining their vaccines.

V. Request for Exemptions

Religious Exemptions

Elmhurst University will approve exemptions to the vaccine mandate in circumstances where a student's sincerely-held religious beliefs, observances, or practices conflict with the vaccination requirement. Students must submit an exemption request form to Student Health Services detailing how the vaccine requirement conflicts with a particular, sincerely-held religious belief, practice, or observance on or before **July 15, 2021**. General philosophical, scientific, moral, personal, or medical objections to immunizations in general, or the COVID-19 vaccines specifically, may be recognized for the religious exemption.

Elmhurst University will convene a committee to review exemption requests. The committee will include one or more members with applicable religious expertise. Exemption requests will be de-identified before they are submitted to the committee to ensure a blind review.

Medical Exemptions

Exemptions for medical reasons will also be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students requesting a medical exemption must submit to Student Health Services a request form on or before **July 15, 2021**. The medical exemption request form must be completed by a licensed, treating medical provider (MD, DO, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant) detailing the applicable CDC contraindication for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Elmhurst University will convene a committee to review exemption requests. The committee will include one or more members with applicable medical expertise. Exemption requests will be de-identified before they are submitted to the committee to ensure a blind review.

VI. Policy Modification

Government and public health guidelines and restrictions and business and industry best practices regarding COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines are changing rapidly as new information becomes available, further research is conducted, and additional vaccines are approved and distributed. Elmhurst University reserves the right to modify this policy at any time in its sole discretion to adapt to changing circumstances and business needs, consistent with its commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace and living and learning environment.

VII. Non-Retaliation

Elmhurst University prohibits any form of discipline, reprisal, intimidation, or retaliation for reporting a violation of this policy or any other health and safety concern.

VIII. Intentional Misrepresentation or Failure to Comply

Intentional misrepresentation contained in the request for an exemption or failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action which may include suspension/expulsion.

IX. Related Policies

Responsible Authority: Division of Student Affairs