

Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What group of BC individuals are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccination is required for BC students in programs that include external clinical placement. This includes most students enrolled in the College of Health Science, School of Nursing, and School of Occupational Therapy. BC continues to strongly encourage all of its community members to become vaccinated against COVID-19.

Why is BC making this a requirement?

COVID-19 has completely changed the landscape of health care around the world, and BC believes that protecting our health care students and the communities they serve against the virus is particularly important. The COVID-19 vaccines are effective at greatly reducing the spread of the virus and its variants and preventing serious illness and hospitalization. An increasing number of our clinical partners, including hospital systems and health care facilities, require students to have the COVID-19 vaccination. This trend is reflective of health care providers across the nation, and is expected to increase given the recent call for mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations by the American Medical Association and the American Nursing Association.

Which COVID-19 vaccines fulfill the requirement?

Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are all acceptable.

What documentation will I need to submit?

You will need to submit documentation that includes your name, date of vaccination, type of vaccine and proof of both doses of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. You need to send this directly to your program director and may need to provide proof of documentation to the clinical site using required protocols.

What is the deadline for sharing my proof of immunization?

Contact your Program Director directly for this deadline.

Are there exemptions for immunization against COVID-19?

Yes, religious and medical exemptions will be considered through a review process.

How do I apply for a medical waiver, religious waiver or vaccination delay due to a recent COVID-19 infection?

BC health science students who need to request a medical waiver, religious waiver or vaccination delay due to a recent COVID-19 infection must complete the COVID-19 Vaccination Waiver Request Form before August 23, 2021. The medical waiver requires a medical provider's signature. Religious waivers must certify that immunization is in conflict with the religious convictions of the signer. Documentation must be received by the August 23, 2021 deadline. Exemption decisions will be communicated via email by August 30, 2021, to all students.

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What happens if I receive approval for a medical or religious waiver for the COVID-19 vaccine?

BC cannot guarantee that you will be placed in a clinical experience in Fall 2021. If clinical placements are not available for students with a medical or religious exception, students will not be able to continue in their program until such times as sites become available or the exemption is no longer required. Students should be prepared for this outcome as the number of clinical sites without a vaccination requirement are extremely limited

If my appeal for a COVID-19 waiver is denied by my Program Director, can I appeal the decision to someone else at BC?

No, Program Directors, Deans, Provost and the Pandemic Response Team have reviewed the Exemption protocols, which include consistent and clear processes. The Program Director's decision will be final.

Can BC mandate vaccines that are currently only subject to Emergency Use Authorizations?

Yes, BC's vaccination policy has been thoroughly reviewed and is compliant with guidelines from our legal counsel. Over **602** colleges and universities and 60 healthcare organizations are requiring immunization against COVID-19.

Don't students have a right to not take a vaccine?

BC's health science programs already include mandatory vaccines for students as part of their program requirements. The COVID-19 vaccine follows these same processes. As with many other institutions, BC, and their clinical partners, consider the Emergency Use Authorization sufficient to be added to the list of required vaccines.

How can I get the COVID-19 vaccination?

If you did not receive the vaccine at one of the College's vaccine clinics, you should visit your local healthcare provider or retail pharmacy to receive the vaccine. Use www.vaccinefinder.org to find vaccine locations near you. If you live in Michigan, you can visit Michigan.gov to learn where you can receive the vaccine.

Do I still need to show proof of vaccination if I have already had COVID-19?

Yes, all students in programs that require external clinical placement will need to show proof of vaccination before continuing in their program.

I am concerned about the speed at which the COVID-19 vaccine was developed. What can you tell me about its safety and effectiveness?

We know that the COVID-19 vaccine was developed fairly quickly and that may raise concerns for members of our community. However, the process used to approve the COVID-19 vaccine is the same process that was used to create safe and effective vaccines for the flu, polio, measles, whooping cough and more. The COVID-19 vaccines have all been subject to rigorous clinical trials, and all routine processes and procedures remained in place to ensure the safety of any vaccine authorized or approved for use. You can learn more about the safety of the vaccine on the [CDC's website](http://www.cdc.gov).