

July 1, 2021

Student Immunization Policy - COVID-19

NOTE that this Policy is subject to change in accordance with state and federal guidance. This policy will serve as a substitute for the policy previously published and is **effective July 1, 2021**.

Union College, in accordance with this Policy, will require full vaccination for students enrolled in course work, research, or other College sponsored activities.

A. Purpose of Policy:

Union College has created a vaccination requirement in order to protect the health and safety of the community and to enable students to fully engage in various aspects of College life more than they have since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Union College will continue to make safety a primary consideration in its decision-making and to rely on the most up-to-date scientific information available to make informed decisions about its operations. As is the case with all vaccination requirements for students, students may request religious or medical exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccination requirements in accordance with the provisions set forth below in paragraph E.

B. To Whom the Policy Applies:

This policy applies to all students participating in coursework, research, student employment or related College activities.

C. Policy Statement:

To comply with this Policy's requirements, students (including incoming students) should provide the College with a copy of their vaccination card by uploading an image or a .pdf of their vaccination card through the [student health portal](#). Union College Health Services will include this information in the student's medical record file which will be subject to existing confidentiality protections.

D International Students

The College will consider New York State and [federal guidance](#) when making decisions about vaccines obtained abroad. Please contact uhealthcenter@union.edu with questions or for more detailed guidance.

E. Compliance Deadline:

1. The College must receive a copy of a student's vaccination card or request for exemption before living, working, studying or on campus for any other reason on or before **July 15, 2021**.

2. Any student who fails to comply with this Policy will not be permitted to enroll in classes, will be precluded from participating in programs, and will be disallowed from

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participating in other College-sponsored activities. Any such student will be prohibited from entering any campus building or facility, including visiting or residing in College residence halls, until they comply with the vaccine requirement.

F. Exemptions to Immunization Requirement:

1. Medical Exemption: If a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physicians assistant certifies in writing that the student has a health condition which is a valid contraindication to receiving a specific vaccine, then a permanent or temporary (for resolvable conditions such as pregnancy) exemption may be granted. This statement must specify those immunizations which may be detrimental and the length of time they may be detrimental.

In the event of an outbreak, medically exempt individuals may need to take extra precautionary measures to increase protection from exposure. This may include additional health and safety protocols.

To request a medical exemption, please submit [the Student Request for Exemption from Immunization form](#) to:

Union College Health Services
Wicker Wellness Center
Office: 518-388-6120
Email: uhealthcenter@union.edu

2. Religious Exemption: A student may be exempt from vaccination if, in the opinion of the College, that student or student's parent(s) or guardian of those less than 18 years old holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization. Requests for exemptions must be written and signed by the student if 18 years of age or older, or parent(s), or guardian if under the age of 18. The College may require supporting documents.

In the event of an outbreak, religiously exempt individuals may need to take extra precautionary measures to increase protection from exposure. This may include additional health and safety protocols.

3. To request a religious exemption, please submit the [Student Request for Exemption from Immunization form](#) to:

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Office: 518-388-6116
Email: Dos_office@union.edu

4. Forms will be carefully reviewed by a Committee, whose members will be designated by the Vice President for Student Affairs, on an on-going basis. This Committee will make recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs who will make the final decision. We expect to respond to requests within 14 days of submission.

5. The College reserves the right to impose requirements for unvaccinated students who have been granted an exemption on campus. Union College Health Services will

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communicate any necessary precautions required of unvaccinated students to those students if and when our protocols change.

G. Procedures in the Event of Failure to Comply:

The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee will send to each student registered to take courses, conduct research, or engage in any other College-sponsored activity, who is not in compliance with any aspect of this Policy, instructions necessary to come into compliance. Any questions about this policy or procedures should be addressed to:

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Office: 518-388-6116
Email: Dos_office@union.edu

Attachment: Student Request For Exemption Form

Last updated July 1, 2021

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