



COVID- 19 Immunization Policy for Students Effective July 29, 2021

To promote the overall health, safety and welfare of the College community, St. Joseph's College requires all students to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. This requirement is in accordance with the recommendations of the American College Health Association and the State of New York. This policy applies to all registered students, with limited exceptions set forth in this policy.

Policy Requirements for Proof of Immunity

Proof of completed COVID-19 vaccination, including any booster shots as recommended by the FDA or CDC, will be required for all students with the exception of those who are enrolled fully online.

Acceptable documentation includes:

- A completed CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or other official documentation authorized by a governmental authority of competent jurisdiction; or;
- Medical records signed by a licensed health care provider indicating vaccine name and date(s) of administration.

International students who have received COVID-19 vaccines not authorized for use in the United States will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

Medical Exemption.

- If a licensed physician or nurse practitioner, or licensed midwife caring for a pregnant student 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. The exemption must specify those immunizations which may be detrimental and the length of time they may be detrimental. The College shall review records of temporarily exempted persons periodically to see if contraindications still exist.
- You will be notified of the outcome of this request after review of all pertinent information.
- In the event of an outbreak, the College shall take necessary precautions to protect medically exempt individuals from exposure. This may include exclusion from classes or campus.

Religious Exemption.

- A student may be exempt from vaccination if, in the sole opinion of the College, that student or student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of those less than eighteen (18) years old, holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization.
- The request for a religious exemption must be made in writing. A student requesting a religious exemption may be required to submit additional information including, but not limited to:
 - The length of time you have adhered to the principles and practice of your faith;
 - The impact your religious beliefs have on other medically related matters including whether you are opposed to all immunizations, and if not, the religious basis that prohibits particular immunizations;
 - Clarification regarding whether all (or most) practitioners of this faith also adhere to the practice of refusing immunizations.
 - A statement of how the student or parent (if student is under 18 years of age) feels accepting immunization would compromise their beliefs
 - A letter from a qualified leader of the religious group which address/substantiates this information
- You will be notified of the outcome of this request after review of all pertinent information.
- In the event of an outbreak, the College shall take necessary precautions to protect religious exempt individuals from exposure. This may include exclusion from classes or campus.

Surveillance Testing Requirements

Unvaccinated students and those with approved medical or religious exemptions may be required to undergo routine PCR COVID-19 surveillance tests. Please check the on campus testing schedule to see when testing is being offered on your respective campus. Please note that if you chose to do testing off campus, it must be a PCR test and you are required to upload the results to the designated site for review and approval.

Online Students

Students registered for online-only courses are exempt from vaccination requirements as long as they will not be attending any classes on campus or in any off-campus group setting with other students.

Proof of Compliance

All students must submit proof of complete vaccination by **Monday, September 13, 2021**.

All students who fail to submit the required documentation will be contacted and reminded of the requirement. Students not in compliance with the regulations, without a valid excuse, may not be allowed on campus