

8/23/21 – COVID-19 Vaccine Required for All SUNY Students

Dear Upstate Medical University Student,

Effective yesterday, Monday, August 23, 2021, all SUNY students are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. [This mandate](#) is in effect for all Upstate Medical University students and went into effect upon the FDA [granting final approval](#) to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine yesterday.

Any of the vaccines currently available in the U.S. (Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer or Moderna) or any [World Health Organization approved vaccine](#) will meet the SUNY vaccination requirement.

Any student who is fully vaccinated must upload proof of the vaccination to the [Student Health Portal](#).

For any student who is not fully vaccinated:

- You must receive your first vaccine dose no later than Tuesday, August 31, 2021 and upload your vaccination record to the [Student Health Portal](#) no later than Friday, September 3, 2021.
- If you are receiving a two dose vaccine, you must receive the second dose by Tuesday, September 28, 2021, and upload your vaccination record to the [Student Health Portal](#) no later than Friday, October 1, 2021.
- You are responsible for scheduling your own vaccination appointments. Information about local vaccination sites is available [here](#).

Any student who has a legitimate medical or religious reason why they cannot receive a COVID-19 vaccine are to submit a vaccine exemption request by Monday, August 30, 2021, to the Student Health Office by utilizing the appropriate exemption request form available on the [Student Health Website](#). Completed forms should be sent to ESHealth@upstate.edu; with subject "COVID Exemption".

Exemption requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are not automatically granted. Students who are granted an exemption will be required to follow the SUNY and Upstate Medical University requirements for unvaccinated students which may consist of, but are not limited to, weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing, physical distancing, and mask wearing, etc. Students whose exemption requests are denied must receive their first vaccine dose and upload their vaccination record to the [Student Health Portal](#) within five business days after receiving notice of the denial from Student Health.

For students in clinical programs, it is your responsibility to inquire and comply with the vaccination requirements at all clinical sites at which you will have a rotation. Your failure to comply with a site's vaccination requirements may adversely affect your ability to be placed at or complete a clinical rotation or other academic experience at the site and may impact your academic progress and/or graduation.

Students may not request a change in course modality to avoid receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, students should be aware that the [SUNY tuition and fee refund policy](#) remains in effect for any student who fails to receive a vaccine by the dates set above and is not approved for an exemption.

Students who fail to submit proof of their COVID vaccination records by the dates set above or who have submitted an exemption request that has been denied, will not be allowed on any Upstate Medical University campus in their capacity as a student and will be deregistered from classes.

Upstate Medical University's vaccination mandate is a strict policy with serious repercussions, put in place for the health and safety of Upstate's community. We look forward to a productive and increasingly safe semester.

If you have questions about the vaccine or this requirement, please contact Student Health.

Sincerely,

Julie R. White, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Educational Services &
Dean of Student Affairs