

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Policy Name:	COVID-19 Immunization Record Requirement for Students				
Section #:	10.3.14	Section Title:	Academic: Student Services & Other Student Related Policies and Programs	Formerly Book:	n/a
Approval Authority:	RBHS Chancellor/Executive Vice President for Health Affairs	Adopted:	04/13/2021	Reviewed:	11/02/2021
Responsible Executive:	RBHS Chancellor/Executive Vice President for Health Affairs	Revised:	11/02/2021		
Responsible Office:	Student Health Services; RBHS, RU-NB, RU-NWK, RU-C	Contact:	Covid19@rutgers.edu		

1. Policy Statement

This policy details the COVID-19 immunization record requirements for all Rutgers University students.

2. Reason for Policy

To minimize outbreaks of COVID-19 in the Rutgers University community; to prevent and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among all persons at Rutgers University and Rutgers-affiliated healthcare units; and to promote the public health of the community in a manner consistent with federal, State, and local efforts to stem the COVID-19 pandemic as well as federal and State law.

3. Who Should Read this Policy

All Rutgers students, deans, program directors, student affairs, and student health services staff.

4. Resources

[University Policy 10.3.13: Student Immunizations and Health Requirements](#)

[Universitywide COVID-19 Information](#)

[New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub](#)

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) Vaccine Recommendations | CDC](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

N.J.S.A. 18A:61D-1, et seq.

N.J.A.C. 8:57-6.1, et seq.

[Rutgers Immunization Portal](#)

All policies are subject to amendment. Please refer to the Rutgers University Policy Library website (policies.rutgers.edu) for the official, most recent version.

5. Definitions

COVID-19: COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a new coronavirus discovered in 2019.

COVID-19 immunization: Administration of a complete series of any COVID-19 vaccine approved and/or authorized for use in the United States by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

6. The Policy

I. Immunization Record and Health Requirements

All students must present evidence of COVID-19 immunization. Evidence of immunization must be uploaded to the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) as soon as the series is completed and no later than the beginning of the first semester or session for which the student is enrolled for classes or such earlier time as the University may direct.

International students vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine approved and/or authorized for use in the United States by the FDA and recommended by the ACIP also may upload documentation signed by a healthcare provider licensed to practice medicine in the United States or a foreign country. Such documentation must include the name of COVID-19 vaccine given and the date(s) of administration. Other forms of documentation may be considered in accordance with applicable law. International students who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine that has not been approved and/or authorized for use in the United States, but which has been approved for use by the World Health Organization (WHO) and which was administered to the student outside the United States, will be considered compliant with this Policy upon providing acceptable documentation of full vaccination in accordance with WHO guidance for that vaccine.

This policy is subject to change based on factors such as the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance from governmental authorities.

II. Exemptions for Requirements

Other than the exceptions/exemptions listed in this Section II, Paragraphs A through D below, this policy shall apply to every student matriculated or enrolled full-time or part-time in a Rutgers school or program, including joint and collaborative programs with other institutions, and to all visiting, exchange, and special-program students from other institutions.

- A. Certain degree-granting programs at Rutgers are entirely online. Students enrolled in those programs generally do not receive Rutgers student identification, are not given access to Rutgers campus resources, and are not expected to have any physical presence on campus during the course of their pursuit of a Rutgers degree. Students enrolled in such fully online degree-granting programs are exempt from this policy. Matriculated students who select courses denoted as “remote,” but who are not enrolled in a fully online degree-granting program, are not exempt.
- B. Individuals participating in non-degree Continuing Education Programs that occur fully online or off-campus are not subject to this policy.
- C. A student may be considered for an exemption from the COVID-19 immunization record requirement if the student has a medical contraindication for COVID-19 immunization and if failure to receive this immunization does not prevent fulfillment of the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program. Conditions comprising valid medical contraindications to vaccine administration are those set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Such students must upload a written and signed statement from a healthcare provider licensed to practice medicine in

the United States or a foreign country stating that a specific immunization is medically contraindicated, and giving the reasons for and duration of this contraindication to the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) for review. These written healthcare provider statements shall become part of the student's immunization record. When a medical contraindication no longer exists, the student must then comply with the immunization record requirement of this policy. Waiver forms can be found on the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#). The University shall provide reasonable accommodations to those students whose medical condition contraindicates COVID-19 immunization so long as the failure to be immunized will not prevent the student from fulfilling the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program.

- D. A student may be considered for a religious exemption from the COVID-19 immunization record requirement if the student uploads to the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) for review a written statement signed by the student (or the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor) explaining how immunization conflicts with the student's bona fide religious beliefs or practices, and if failure to receive this immunization does not prevent fulfillment of the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program. A general philosophical or moral objection to immunization shall not suffice as the basis for exemption on religious grounds. Waiver request forms can be found on the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#). The University shall provide reasonable accommodations to those students whose religious beliefs bar COVID-19 immunization so long as the failure to be immunized will not prevent the student from fulfilling the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of the academic program.

III. Record keeping requirements

Acceptable documents serving as evidence of COVID-19 immunization may include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- A. A completed CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy; or medical records signed by a licensed health care provider indicating vaccine name and dates of administration in compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy;
- B. An official record of immunization from the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy;
- C. Information uploaded directly into the [Rutgers Immunization Portal](#) by Rutgers as part of administration of COVID-19 vaccine at an on-campus Rutgers COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic POD (Point of Dispensing) or a Rutgers Student or Occupational Health Office;
- D. A military immunization or health record from the United States Armed Forces indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy; or
- E. For internationally administered vaccines, signed documentation from a health care provider licensed to practice medicine in the United States or a foreign country of the dates and name of COVID-19 vaccine, indicating compliance with the immunization requirements of this policy.