

HEALTH SCIENCES IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (HSIP) POLICY ADDENDUM: COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT

Effective Date: 02/17/2022

Review Date:

POLICY ADDENDUM:

University of Washington (UW) students in health science and speech and hearing science (SPHSC) programs requiring enrollment in Health Sciences Immunization Program (HSIP), as defined in the [HSIP policy](#), must meet COVID-19 vaccination requirements in accordance with this policy addendum and in alignment with [Governor Jay Inslee's vaccination proclamation](#), [CDC recommendations for healthcare workers](#), and [UW policies and procedures](#). HSIP is a program within the UW Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) department.

Students in HSIP-participating health science and SPHSC programs, in addition to fulfilling the requirements in the [HSIP policy](#), are required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or receive a University approved medical or religious exemption.

1. Documentation of COVID-19 vaccination must be uploaded into the COVID-19 vaccination action in each student's CastleBranch account.
2. HSIP COVID-19 vaccination requirements may change during a student's enrollment based on changes in federal/state laws, CDC recommendations for healthcare workers, or University policy and procedures. Students are required to comply with updated HSIP COVID-19 requirements while enrolled in HSIP participating programs.
3. HSIP may discuss and share student compliance status and related information with their respective health sciences school or program and practicum or clinical training sites prior to and during placements. This includes any or all information provided to meet entry requirements and any annual or other required updates. Students authorize and agree to these terms by submitting a dated acknowledgement of reading the information as a requirement within their CastleBranch To-Do List.
4. Students may be prohibited from participating in practicum, clinical or training sites if they fail to meet HSIP requirements, fall out of compliance due to an expired requirement, or fail to produce written authorization for temporary/permanent exemption status (HSIP approval required). Practicum, clinical, or training sites may prohibit student participation despite a student obtaining a UW HSIP approved exemption.
5. Students are responsible for any academic or financial consequences resulting from non-compliance.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students' roles and responsibilities are outlined in the [HSIP Policy](#).

2. Additional roles and responsibilities:

- a. Health Sciences Immunization Program (HSIP) places holds on the registration of students who have not met the COVID-19 vaccination requirements for **all** HSIP-participating health sciences and SPHSC programs.
- b. UW health sciences schools and programs will prevent students from entering or continuing work in **any** clinical setting, including clinical course work and practicum placements, if they do not comply with COVID-19 vaccination requirements.
- c. HSIP and UW health sciences schools and programs participate in the COVID-19 exemption process as outlined under the exemption portion of this policy.
- d. Practicum/site-specific requirements to provide COVID-19 vaccination or exemption documentation are the student’s responsibility.

IMMUNIZATION PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19

Students must submit documentation of their COVID-19 vaccination status in their CastleBranch account at least three months prior to the first day of class, and will not be allowed to register for classes unless their COVID-19 vaccination documentation or exemption is approved. Below is a summary of how students satisfy the COVID-19 vaccination requirement.

1. Acceptable immunizations:

Requirement	Acceptable immunizations
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two COVID-19 mRNA vaccines (Pfizer BioNTech/Comirnaty second dose must be given at least 17 days after the first dose; Moderna second dose must be given at least 24 days after the first dose) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 vaccine recognized on the WHO EUL vaccination list (with series completion according to the EUL)

2. **Acceptable vaccination documentation** (Records must include full name, type of vaccine/manufacture, date of administration, and be from a verifiable source which includes either the name of the clinic/provider signature/registry verifying the vaccine or a vaccine lot number):
- a. Image of a CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card, or
 - b. Documentation of vaccination from a health care provider, including an electronic health record, or



- c. State immunization information system record
3. Documentation showing both vaccines in a 2-dose series must be uploaded in CastleBranch as one submission for approval.
4. Students are considered “fully vaccinated” and able to participate in practicum, clinical, or training sites in a healthcare setting two weeks after the final dose in the vaccine series (e.g., 2 weeks after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or 2 weeks after a single dose of J&J or WHO EUL vaccine).
5. Changes to requirements, including but not limited to, additional vaccine doses, boosters, and vaccination renewal may be required based on updates to federal/state requirements, CDC recommendations for healthcare workers, UW policy and procedures, or practicum site requirements. HSIP refers to CDC guidelines for the most recent updates on [COVID-19 vaccines](#) and [COVID-19 booster vaccine](#) recommendations.
6. Students who submit false or inaccurate information during the verification or exemption process are subject to disciplinary procedures that can include dismissal from the University.

STUDENTS RETURNING FROM A LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA)

Students returning from a LOA must fulfill any overdue COVID-19 vaccination requirement prior to registration.

COVID-19 VACCINE EXEMPTIONS

COVID-19 vaccine exemption request forms are available on the [HSIP webpage](#). Exemption requests must be submitted directly to HSIP through myshots@uw.edu by the due date listed on the HSIP webpage. Due to the nature of health sciences training programs, COVID-19 vaccine exemptions are granted rarely and only in alignment with [CDC recommendations for healthcare workers](#) and University policy and practice.

1. Medical Exemptions

- a. Refer to HSIP policy under “Medical waiver procedures.”
- b. HSIP participating schools/programs will individually assess the availability of accommodations for each student with an approved COVID-19 vaccine medical exemption. Schools/programs may be unable to accommodate students if practicum sites are unwilling to accept unvaccinated students.

2. Religious Exemptions

- a. At such time as the CDC adds COVID-19 vaccination to the recommendations for healthcare workers, religious exemptions will no longer be accepted by HSIP. HSIP requires all CDC recommended vaccinations for healthcare workers and does not permit religious exemption.
- b. Students in HSIP participating programs who request a religious accommodation are required to submit BOTH sections (1 & 2) of the COVID-

- 19 student religious accommodation request form. Medical counseling under section 1 must be signed by a Washington state qualified MD, DO, ND, ARNP, or PA provider.
- c. Religious exemption requests are reviewed by HSIP to verify documentation of a sincerely held religious belief, practice or observance that prevents the student from receiving an FDA approved COVID-19 vaccination in alignment with University policy and practices. Religious exemption requests that do not document a sincerely held religious belief, practice or observance preventing COVID-19 vaccination are denied by HSIP.
 - d. If the student documents a sincerely held religious belief, practice or observance that prevents the student from receiving COVID-19 vaccination, HSIP reviews religious exemptions with the dean, associate dean, or designee in the student's school/program to determine whether the school/program can accommodate the student. HSIP notifies the student whether the religious exemption request is approved/denied.
3. Philosophical exemptions are not accepted under the [Governor's vaccination proclamation](#) and University policy and practice.
 4. Students with questions about their COVID-19 exemption request determination should first contact their dean's office.
 5. Students with approved COVID-19 vaccine exemptions must follow the University's additional safety requirements as outlined on the [COVID-19 vaccination requirement](#) webpage (e.g., COVID-19 testing requirements, PPE requirements, distancing requirements, etc.)
 6. Students who engage in direct or indirect patient care must comply with additional requirements for health care settings, including:
 - a. Eye protection for all patient encounters
 - b. Patient care restrictions for patient care and patient interacting health care workers (HCWs): Cannot work with bone marrow transplant (BMT) or solid organ transplant (SOT) patients or in congregate patient units, such as the geriatric psychiatry unit (e.g., UW Medical Center-Northwest or 5MB at Harborview Medical Center) or care for patients with COVID-19 or other immunocompromised patients
 - c. Any other practicum, clinical, training site-specific requirement
 7. **Practicum facilities may deny unvaccinated students access to their site, which may result in an inability to fulfill academic requirements. If you have questions about academic requirements, please contact your school or program.**
 8. Students who submit false or inaccurate information during the exemption process are subject to disciplinary procedures that can include dismissal from the University.