



# UNIVERSITY of ST. AUGUSTINE for HEALTH SCIENCES

## University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences Reentry Protocol Frequently Asked Questions

updated February 2, 2022

*This Q&A includes general responses to frequently asked questions. For more specific answers and details regarding procedures, please reach out to [reentry@usa.edu](mailto:reentry@usa.edu) or contact your local campus Human Resources partner (faculty and staff) or academic program director (students) directly.*

### VACCINATION

#### **Q: Who is required to show proof of being fully vaccinated?**

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) students, faculty (including lab assistants and contributing faculty) and staff who plan to access campus at any time must be [fully vaccinated](#) or they will be required to show evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within seven days prior to each campus entry. **Vendors and campus visitors** are required to follow the same protocol. Visitors are limited to those on official University business or who support the USAHS academic purpose. Children under two years old will be exempt and allowed on campus only if participating in a pediatric lab activity.

#### **Q: How does the University collect vaccine data?**

Students, faculty, staff and visitors are asked to upload proof of being vaccinated via the Daily Health Screening form located at [reentry2.usa.edu](https://reentry2.usa.edu). You will not need to provide this information again once documentation showing full vaccination has been received. Vaccination data is encrypted, will only be accessed by specialized personnel and may only be shared in aggregate form, such as the University-wide rates.

#### **Q: Is the vaccination disclosure confidential? Who has access to this information?**

Identifiable information for individuals will remain confidential and is available only to limited, specialized employees who manage our COVID-19 response and have had Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance training. HIPAA protocols will be strictly upheld.

#### **Q: What documentation will I have to upload to prove I have been vaccinated?**

Accepted forms of documentation are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccination card provided by the vaccination site, electronic COVID-19 vaccine passports or a COVID-19 vaccination record from your medical provider.

#### **Q: If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, am I protected by natural immunity, or do I still need to get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes, we highly encourage all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated and boosted (if eligible). Experts don't yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovery. If you prefer not to be vaccinated, you will then opt for the COVID-19 testing protocol.

The [CDC indicates you should get a COVID-19 vaccine even if you already had COVID-19](#). Getting a COVID-19 vaccine gives most people a high level of protection against COVID-19 even in people who have already been sick with the virus.

**Q: Where can I get vaccinated?**

Visit [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org) for a list of vaccine providers.

**Q: Why should I get vaccinated?**

Vaccination can protect you from getting ill and from spreading the COVID-19 virus to others. It will take all of us to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

- [Benefits of Getting Vaccinated](#)
- [Preparing for Your COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

**Q: What happens if I am not fully vaccinated?**

Anyone who does not disclose that they have been fully vaccinated in documentation through the Daily Health Screening form located at [reentry2.usa.edu](https://reentry2.usa.edu), and who accesses a USAHS campus will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within seven days prior to each campus entry. We take these protocols seriously and ask you to do so as well. Violations of University policies may result in student conduct or employee disciplinary proceedings.

**Q: What does “fully vaccinated” mean?**

You are considered fully vaccinated if you have received your primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. Effective **Monday, February 14**, the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences will consider you fully vaccinated and up to date if you have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. Specifically, this means:

- A Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccine dose **within the last five months**. The five-month timing starts from the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and the single dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine; **OR**
- A booster shot, if eligible. In other words, if your vaccination of the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson exceeds five months as defined in the prior point, you will need to have the booster to maintain full vaccination status at USAHS.
- Reference [the CDC website](#) for more information.

## BOOSTERS

**Q: If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get a booster?**

Yes, we highly encourage all students, faculty and staff to get boosted once eligible. Experts don't yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovery. If you prefer not to be vaccinated and boosted, you will then opt for the COVID-19 testing protocol.

**Q: How soon can I get a booster after having COVID-19?**

Per [CDC guidelines](#), people with COVID-19 who have symptoms should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness and have met the criteria for discontinuing isolation; those without

symptoms should also wait until they meet the criteria before getting vaccinated/boosted. People who have had a known COVID-19 exposure should not seek vaccination/booster until their quarantine period has ended to avoid potentially exposing healthcare personnel and others during the vaccination visit.

People who were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, or people who have a history of multisystem inflammatory syndromes, may need to wait a while after recovering before they can get vaccinated/boosted. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure when to receive a COVID-19 vaccine/booster.

**Q: How do I know if I need a COVID-19 booster shot?**

Studies show after getting vaccinated against COVID-19, protection against the virus and the ability to prevent infection with variants may decrease over time and due to changes in variants. Please reference who can get a booster shot on the [CDC website](#).

**Q: How soon can I enter campus after receiving my booster?**

A person is considered “boosted” and up to date right after getting their booster dose. The date the booster vaccine is received is used to establish campus entrance eligibility. Individuals do not have a waiting period after receiving the booster to be considered fully vaccinated.

## COVID-19 TESTING

**Q: Who is required to provide voluntary proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 tests?**

Anyone who accesses a USAHS campus must either submit proof of [full vaccination](#) for COVID-19 or show evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result administered (proof must include testing date) within the past seven days prior to each campus entry. Children under two years old will be exempt and allowed on campus only if participating in a pediatric lab activity.

**Q: How do I calculate the seven-day window a COVID-19 test is valid for campus entry?**

Negative test results from a specimen collected within the seven (7) days prior to the date of campus entry are valid. For example, an individual may access campus October 11 with a negative COVID-19 test result from a specimen collected October 4-11. However, an individual wanting to access campus October 11 who has a negative test result from October 3 or earlier will be required to submit another negative test result taken with seven days prior to campus entry in order to enter campus.

**Q: How do you collect test results data?**

Students, faculty and staff upload proof of being fully vaccinated or having a negative COVID-19 test taken within seven days prior to each campus entry via the Daily Health Screening form located at [reentry.usa.edu](#).

**Q: What type of COVID-19 test is acceptable?**

The **COVID-19 test must be administered by a healthcare professional or a licensed pharmacist** to ensure integrity of the sample and accurate interpretation of results. Tests must have either Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. USAHS does accept antigen COVID-19 tests. Antibody tests **do not** meet the requirements.

**Q: Is an antibody blood test allowed in lieu of a negative COVID-19 test result for campus entry?**

Antibody tests do not meet [testing requirements](#), as they do not diagnose or detect an active COVID-19 infection. Antibody tests look for antibodies in the immune system that indicate if an individual was historically infected by the virus that causes COVID-19. These antibodies can take several days or weeks to develop after you have an infection. Antibody tests cannot diagnose COVID-19 at the time of the test nor show that an individual does not have COVID-19. In addition to the [FDA](#), the [CDC](#) also does not recommend antibody tests.

**Q: Where can I get a COVID-19 test?**

COVID-19 tests are available at no cost nationwide at [health centers and select pharmacies](#). USAHS will not reimburse anyone for COVID-19 testing if the tester chooses to use a pay-for-testing site.

**Q: Why aren't we asking everyone to get tested regularly regardless of vaccine status?**

USAHS' reentry protocols approach is in line with government organizations, private businesses and other universities, which do not require regular testing for those who have been fully vaccinated. Our campus safety protocols require anyone on campus, regardless of vaccination status, to complete the Daily Health Screening, wear masks and practice physical distancing when possible. As has been our practice, we will assess expert guidance for maintaining a safe and healthy campus environment and updating and revising our protocol as new information becomes available.

**Q: Will we make tests available on campus?**

At this time, we have no plans to offer testing on campus, as we do not have the ability or infrastructure to do so. We will explore options to help facilitate testing if the need arises, and if is feasible to do so. Find a testing location near you [on this site](#).

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Q: If I do not clear campus reentry because I have been exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19, is my absence from class excused?**

Absence from class is **excused** if a student cannot enter campus due to illness or exposure to COVID-19. Faculty will work with students to cover missed material. Students will be subject to further screening by the contact tracing team to determine potential risk to the campus community.

**Q: If I do not clear campus reentry because I do not meet the requirement of having a vaccine or providing proof of a negative test, is my absence from class excused?**

Absence from class is **unexcused** if a student cannot enter campus due to noncompliance with the vaccination or testing requirement. All absences are subject to the attendance policy in the Student Catalog.

**Q: What options do I have if I am not vaccinated/choose not to disclose my vaccination status, and I choose not to provide proof of negative COVID-19 tests?**

Students who opt out of reentry requirements may take a Leave of Absence for the term, if eligible per the existing Leave of Absence policy in the USAHS Student Catalog/Handbook.

## MASKS AND HEALTH PROTOCOLS

**Q: If I am vaccinated, do I still have to wear a mask?**

Yes. We expect that mask wearing will continue as long as there is sufficient risk of COVID-19 presence and spread in the community. While USAHS consults CDC, state and local health guidelines on masking, it is ultimately the prerogative of USAHS to maintain its mask policy on a University level. Reference the [COVID-19 Policy on PPE Requirements](#) for current mask requirements.

**Q: To what extent will the Daily Health Screening be enforced?**

There will be no tolerance for noncompliance or for any individuals who falsify information on the form. Employees, vendors and visitors who fail to comply will be contacted by the University, and their supervisor and Human Resources will be notified. Students will be referred to the Professional Misconduct Committee.

## CAMPUS OPERATIONS

**Q: What COVID-19 prevention and containment strategies will USAHS continue?**

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences will maintain its [Personal Protective Equipment policy](#), including the use of face masks while indoors and when entering/exiting campus. In addition, USAHS will continue hygiene protocols, including handwashing and cleaning.