



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

updated August 27, 2021

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 or contact your campus Human Resources representative (faculty and staff) or faculty advisor (students) directly.

VACCINATION

Q: Who will be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated?

USAHS students, faculty (including lab assistants and contributing faculty) and staff who are planning to access campus at any time for the 2021 Fall Term should arrange to be fully vaccinated by **October 1, 2021**, 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** will be required to follow the same protocol. Visitors will be limited to maintenance, security, patients for academic and research activities, and prospective hires/students. Children under two years old will be exempt and allowed on campus only if participating in a pediatric lab activity.

Q: How will the University collect vaccine data?

Students, faculty, staff and visitors will be able to upload proof of being vaccinated via the Daily Health Screening form located at reentry.usa.edu. The site will open to upload this information Wednesday, September 1. 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 the campus entry app 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: When can I start uploading my vaccination documentation?

Starting Wednesday, September 1, you will be able to upload your information.

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

Yes, we highly encourage all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated. 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.

Q: Will you be offering vaccines on campus to those who have not received one yet?

Yes. We are working on a plan to host an event to facilitate the availability of COVID-19 vaccines on campus. More details will be communicated in the near future.

Q: Where can I get vaccinated?

Visit 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 if I try to get vaccinated, but there are no available doses for me?

With eligibility opened nationwide and expanded vaccine availability, this should not be an issue. If you have difficulty getting a vaccination, you can show evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within seven days prior to each campus entry.

Q: What happens if I am not fully vaccinated by October 1?

Anyone who does not disclose and show vaccine documentation by October 1, 2021, and 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.

COVID-19 TESTING

Q: Who will be 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: When will I be asked to provide test results to enter campus?

Testing reporting will begin October 1, 2021.

Q: How will you collect test results data?

Students, faculty and staff will 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 will be 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. Antigen 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 do 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 2021 Fall 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.

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.