



University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

Q: Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS) is not administering COVID-19 vaccinations, nor is it a distribution site for the vaccine. Approved COVID-19 vaccines (e.g., Pfizer, Moderna) are being distributed to organizations that can handle large scale vaccination.

Due to obvious high demand, not everyone will receive the vaccine right away. COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and distribution are determined on a state-by-state basis, although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made [priority recommendations](#). Therefore, we recommend checking with your state and/or county health department's website or by calling their offices for up-to-date protocols and vaccination locations and procedures.

Q: We are in the health sciences/health care field, so why aren't we at the front of the line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

USAHS is an institution of higher education, and therefore does not have priority status for its employees or students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Q: Is USAHS requiring me to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

USAHS currently does **not** require employees, students or vendors to get the COVID-19 vaccine. A COVID-19 vaccine is also currently not required for campus entry. However, everyone entering any USAHS campus must follow current University health and safety protocols and policies, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated.

Likewise, any student or employee who can obtain a COVID-19 vaccine should take advantage of this opportunity to receive it and independently follow local processes to locate a vaccination site.

Q: What if I need to miss work to get my vaccine?

Any employee scheduled to receive a COVID-19 vaccine during regular work hours and who has an official notification of a vaccine appointment is permitted and will be accommodated to use work time to receive the vaccine with prior notification to the employee's supervisor. Please give as much notice as possible.

Q: I am considered high risk. Will I be required to return to campus even after I have received both doses of the vaccine?

Vaccinated high-risk employees continue to be considered high-risk unless otherwise stated by a medical professional via medical recertification. Campus presence is not mandated for anyone in the high-risk category. Employees should complete the [High Risk Accommodation Form](#) and contact HR (HR@usa.edu) with questions.

Q: When can I stop wearing a mask and avoiding close contact with others after I have been vaccinated?

There is not enough information currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

Any student or employee who obtains the COVID-19 vaccine must continue to follow all University-required health and safety protocols and procedures, including, but not limited to, personal protective equipment, physical distancing, hand washing and hygiene. Following CDC recommendations, recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine will be held to the same quarantine guidelines currently established and in place.

Q: What happens if my clinical site is requiring me to have the COVID-19 vaccine?

Students required by their clinical site to have the COVID-19 vaccine must make every effort to obtain it. Any student who cannot obtain the COVID-19 vaccine might not be placed in their clinical rotation as a requirement of the clinical site. In that case, an attempt will be made to find an alternate clinical placement; however, note that if an alternate site is not found, the student may have a delay in graduating.

Any student who refuses to get the COVID-19 vaccine might be removed from their clinical site and risk delaying their graduation. Students should consult their health insurance provider for covering any associated costs of obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine. Students required to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine will need to show evidence of receiving the complete COVID-19 vaccine series/dosage prior to beginning their clinical rotation.

Q: Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received two doses of the vaccine?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic, such as covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often and staying at least six feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following the CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.