

University of California 2021-2022 Flu Vaccination Executive Order

Student Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is UC requiring flu immunizations of students?

The [executive order issued on October 8, 2021](#) requires all covered students, faculty, other academic appointees and staff to get vaccinated against influenza, or opt out using a form supplied by their location after receiving information about flu vaccine, no later than November 19, 2021.

The executive order creates a uniform policy for the 2021-2022 flu season applicable to all students, faculty, other academic appointees and staff learning, living or working at UC locations. However, all members of the UC community are strongly encouraged to receive the flu vaccine.

Individuals who wish to opt out may affirmatively do so in writing but will be required to wear masks or face coverings at UC locations through the end of the flu season even if COVID-19 requirements are loosened. More restrictive measures may apply at some locations as a result of statewide or local public health orders.

2. Why is UC requiring flu immunizations?

Based on its review of guidance from public health authorities and scientific studies, the University views vaccination against influenza as an important part of actions needed for the safe return to in-person activities as well as for protecting the public health of the surrounding communities. The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing, and the potential confluence with influenza viruses remains a threat to the health and safety of the UC community and the public at large. The potential for a high burden on health care systems continues due to the possibility of both influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses circulating at the same time.

3. What is the deadline to meet the requirements of the executive order?

The deadline is November 19, 2021 for covered individuals to meet the requirements of the executive order, which include getting vaccinated or opting out of vaccination using a form supplied by their location, after receiving information about the flu vaccine.

4. If a student will not participate in in-person instruction, live on campus or work at a UC location this fall will they need to meet the requirements of the executive order?

No, but if students who are studying and living remotely are later required or want to access UC premises in connection with their education/training, employment or appointment during the 2021-2022 flu season, they must first meet the requirements of the executive order.

Even if you study and live remotely, everyone is encouraged to obtain the 2021-2022 flu vaccine consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and California Department of Public Health guidance, as well as recommendations from the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

5. Are there any exemptions from the mandate?

No exemptions are necessary. Anyone who chooses to opt out may do so, as outlined in the executive order, but will be required to wear masks or face coverings at UC locations through the end of the flu season even if COVID-19 requirements are loosened.

6. I am afraid of getting a shot. Are there options that do not involve a shot?

Please speak with your health care provider about your options. Many people can get vaccinated with a nasal spray rather than a shot.

7. Is there a penalty or consequence for students if they do not meet the requirements of the executive order?

Covered individuals who have not met the requirements of the executive order – which include getting vaccinated against influenza, or opting out using a form supplied by their location after receiving information about flu vaccine – will be required to wear masks or face coverings at UC locations through the end of the flu season even if COVID-19 requirements are loosened.

8. How will students provide proof that they have received their flu shot?

Students are able to report receiving a flu vaccination through their Student Health Services Portals, where they also report their other required vaccinations. Some locations may also ask about flu vaccination through screening apps used to enter UC facilities.

9. When and where will this year's flu vaccine be available?

The vaccine is available now in most locations, including retail pharmacies, doctors' offices and medical clinics.

10. What is the cost of the flu vaccine for students?

The medical insurance required for students, such as UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UC SHIP) and all Affordable Care Act-compliant medical insurance plans, covers influenza vaccination at no cost to the individual.

11. Does the flu vaccine requirement apply to visiting, graduate or professional school students as well?

Yes. This requirement applies to all students in graduate or undergraduate programs at UC, including visitors who are not enrolled in degree-granting programs.

12. How will student health clinics deliver the vaccinations given the social distancing requirements that may impact the usual vaccination fairs?

Student health clinics at each campus are working in consultation with their local public health departments on plans for vaccination events, but vaccine supply will not be sufficient to vaccinate all students. As such, students are also encouraged to access vaccinations available through other outlets, such as retail pharmacies, public health agencies and physician offices, in order to obtain vaccination as early as possible before the deadline.

13. What other immunizations does the University policy require of students?

The UC Immunization Policy requires incoming students to obtain the vaccinations and screening recommended for colleges and universities by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for those diseases that can be passed on to others by respiratory transmission. These vaccines currently include: Measles, Mumps and Rubella; Varicella (chickenpox) (VZV) and tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap). The University also requires the COVID-19 vaccine per the terms of the [COVID-19 vaccination policy](#). In addition, the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) is required for students aged 21 and younger. All incoming students must also complete an online screening questionnaire for tuberculosis (TB), based upon CDPH guidance. Students training at clinical locations, day care centers, and other UC locations may be subject to additional requirements consistent with federal and state law and local public health directives.