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Evergreen Vaccine Policy for Students

Issued: July 7, 2021

Revised with documentation upload link: July 14, 2021

STUDENT VACCINATION REQUIREMENT POLICY

Why Evergreen Requires Vaccination

The Evergreen State College has a legal and ethical obligation to serve the public good and promote the health and safety of the communities it serves. The COVID-19 vaccines, now widely available, have been shown to nearly eliminate the chances of death or serious illness related to a COVID-19 infection and are critical elements in protecting public health locally and worldwide.

We know the best way to protect the Evergreen community from COVID-19 and safely resume more in-person activities is through vaccination. The vaccines currently available in the United States are highly effective at preventing COVID-19 and preventing serious illness, even in those who do get COVID-19.

Therefore, all Evergreen students, staff, faculty, and contractors will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend in-person education on our campuses and Evergreen-associated in-person activities beginning in Fall 2021.

This policy is being announced well in advance of the fall quarter so that Evergreen students, staff, and members of the faculty can gather information, consult with their medical providers if they choose, and have ample time to receive vaccination and develop immunity. It is based on the latest guidance for higher education from the [CDC](#) and the [Washington State Department of Health](#).

Scope of This Policy

This policy applies to all Evergreen students enrolled for the 2021-2022 academic year or until rescinded by the college. Evergreen staff and faculty, and contractors are also required to be vaccinated, which are detailed in separate policies.

An Evergreen student is defined as any individual who takes an academic class, workshop, or enrolls in Evergreen's educational programming, or participates in grant-funded programming managed by the college. This includes Evergreen full and part-time students, exchange students, special students, Running Start students, Upward Bound students, undergraduate students, graduate students, and student employees, studying or working on the Olympia and Tacoma campuses or alternate sites, at Native Pathways Program sites, or remotely.

This requirement applies equally to those who have previously tested positive for COVID-19. Any vaccine authorized for use by the World Health Organization is acceptable to meet this requirement including: the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the Moderna vaccine, and the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. For students receiving a vaccine which requires two doses, both doses of the vaccine must be received and recorded. This policy, which covers Evergreen's fall operations, is effective immediately, continuing until rescinded by the college.

Please read further to understand your deadlines for proof of vaccination.

Vaccination Requirement

All students participating in on-campus classes or off-campus in-person activities of any kind, including student employment, are required to receive a complete course of COVID-19 vaccination to attend classes, and remain an enrolled student in good standing at the school. The final vaccination dose must be completed two weeks ahead of their first day on campus.

For students whose first day on campus will be the first day of the quarter, Monday, September 27, the complete vaccine course should be received by September 13. For students arriving earlier for orientation, housing, athletics or other fall activities, students should receive their full vaccine course ending two weeks prior to their first day on campus.

Non-compliance with the policy may result in one or more of the following: exclusion from living on campus, attending in-person classes or campus-related activities; a hold placed on the student account, preventing registration; and/or a potential referral to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

This stated vaccine requirement policy does not preclude or supersede other vaccination verification procedures which may be required for special events or activities supported by the college. On-site proof of vaccination for attendance or admission may be necessary for event entry, even if vaccination records have been submitted with the school.

Getting Your Vaccination

If you still need a vaccination, please know that all three U.S. approved vaccines are free to the public, and no student will be charged, nor their medical insurance billed for receiving a vaccine.

[COVID-19 vaccinations are widely available](#) in our local and surrounding communities. Students are responsible for choosing and obtaining all recommended doses of a WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccine.

To be "fully vaccinated" for COVID-19, an individual must:

- Receive all recommended doses for the chosen vaccination course according to the time schedule recommended by the manufacturer.

- Wait two weeks after the final dose for the body to build immunity.

The college will work with students who may have received a vaccine not approved by the World Health Organization in order to assure compliance with this policy. International or other students abroad who have received a vaccine not approved by the World Health Organization should contact Evergreen Student Wellness staff or their health-care provider for consultation prior to taking any action to attempt to comply with this policy.

Providing Your Documentation

Students will need to provide documentation of vaccination via encrypted [online webform](#), or in-person to Evergreen Student Wellness Services where they will be retained as student health records.

To document your vaccination, you may use one of the following:

- Your completed vaccination card
- Your attestation of vaccination in Washington state, and authorization for Evergreen to verify and confirm vaccination status through the Washington State Immunization Information System (WAIS)
- Other written proof of your vaccination from a vaccine administrator or health care provider

Please do not submit vaccination records or a medical record with any health history or genetic information visible.

Students who arrive without having completed a full vaccination regime will be required to begin (or continue) their vaccination process, or to complete a vaccination exemption upon arrival to campus. Evergreen will be able to either provide vaccination, and/or will work with students to facilitate vaccination off-campus.

Until full vaccination is documented, students may be subject to COVID-19 testing, masking and six-foot social distancing rules; exclusion from campus programs, classes, or spaces; isolation quarantine if they are an on-campus resident, or other requirements or restrictions to support community health.

Non-Compliance

Students not in compliance with this policy (i.e., have not initiated the documentation of vaccination nor exemption) may be excluded from campus and off-site school associated activities including attending classes, obtaining resources, and working on campus, and will be referred to student conduct. A failure or delay in enforcing this policy by the college does not amount to a waiver of that obligation, right or remedy.

Applying for a Vaccine Exemption

It is the expectation of the college that every student who can take the COVID-19 vaccine will be fully vaccinated if they expect to be in person or on campus. Evergreen will issue

exceptions to this vaccination requirement only in rare and limited circumstances as detailed below. The process and resources for seeking an exemption will be made available on Evergreen's [Student Wellness webpage](#). Students who wish to receive an exemption should submit their exemption application 30 days in advance of their first day on campus. Students with disabilities who require accommodations related to this policy should contact Access Services at www.evergreen.edu/access.

Medical Exemption

Students may apply for a medical exemption from this policy if it is determined and documented by their licensed health care provider that vaccination against COVID-19 would be medically unsafe, or that the risks of vaccination outweigh the benefits. Students seeking a medical exemption must submit a request for exemption including 1) a signature of the individual's health care provider attesting to the health condition that prevents their vaccination and 2) completion of a COVID-19 educational module and an acknowledgement of risk.

Religious Exemption

Students who have a deeply or sincerely held religious belief, observances or practices that conflict with getting vaccinated may apply for exemption from this policy. These students must submit an application for exemption which provides 1) a narrative explanation and reasoning to support the request written by the student 2) the signature, credential and number of the individual's licensed health care provider attesting that the student has been informed of the risks to their health and community of declining vaccination, and 3) completion of a COVID-19 educational module and an acknowledgement of risk.

Remote Exemption

Students seeking an exemption as a 100% remote student may receive such an exemption from Student Wellness if they reside off campus and agree they will not be taking part in any on-campus events, activities, or education; they further agree not to come to campus in person to access services or resources. Students who apply for this exemption, who opt later to take part in on-campus, or other in-person related activity, including registration for any in-person or hybrid offerings, must submit proof of vaccination or medical/personal exemption before participating in on-campus, or in-person Evergreen associated activities.

Academic offerings listed in the catalog as "hybrid" or "in-person" will not qualify as remote and will not accommodate those studying remotely.

Students who receive a remote exemption to this policy must resubmit this request at the beginning of each academic quarter while this policy is active, attesting that they continue to remain 100% remote. Alternately, remote students are welcome to submit vaccination documentation.

Can Exempted Students Come to Campus?

Yes. However, students with exemptions who need to access campus or in-person activities for any reason including living on campus, must agree to abide by health and safety mitigation behaviors as outlined by Evergreen in compliance with federal, [state](#), and local health and safety guidelines and requirements, to prevent undue hardship or a direct threat to the health and safety to themselves or others.

An exempted student may be excluded from curricular or other on-campus or in person activities if the circumstances/conditions pose a risk to health and safety which cannot be eliminated or reduced. To determine level of risk, the college may complete an individualized assessment and determine if mitigating measures can be taken to reduce or eliminate risk.

Mitigation behaviors and requirements may include but are not limited to masking and social distancing, travel restrictions, symptomatic, exposure or surveillance testing, or other measures as designated by state and local health authorities and Evergreen to preserve the health and safety of the Evergreen community.

Can Exempted Students Attend In-Person Classes?

Since access to classes and campus may be revoked due to worsening circumstances, the college recommends all unvaccinated students choose to take remote-only courses until COVID-19 vaccination is no longer required by the college.

This recommendation ensures their access to comprehensive course content. Students should be aware that academic offerings listed in the catalog as "hybrid" or "in-person" are not designed to accommodate those studying remotely; therefore, extended off-site study will result in changes to students' experience in the offering, including but not limited to alternate assignments, changes to earned or attempted academic credit, or discontinuing registration in a given offering.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak on campus, or increasing COVID-19 threat to the college, students who have received an exemption from vaccination for any reason, may be required to leave campus and remain off-site indefinitely until the risk to themselves and/or others has been sufficiently mitigated. During the time which the student remains off campus, it is the student's responsibility to remain in contact with the faculty members teaching the offering(s) for which they are enrolled. Alternate learning opportunities for hybrid and in-person classes may or may not be available consistent.

Housing Considerations

Students planning to live on-campus who are unable to get access to vaccination ahead of their arrival must contact Evergreen Residence and Dining (RAD) student housing **and** Evergreen Student Wellness, as soon as possible, and by August 31, so remote and quarantine accommodations may be arranged until the student is fully vaccinated.

Full compliance with this policy which includes approved vaccination or approved exemption or approved interim arrangements will be required for move-in to on-campus housing.

Compliance with Existing Policy

Students should not use compliance with this policy as a substitute for future COVID-19 safe behaviors and protocols as designated by the college and the local health authority. These behaviors may include and are not limited to, masking, social distancing, cleaning, and compliance with future modified or suspended operations due to COVID-19 outbreaks or resurgence in the community if applicable.

This COVID-19 vaccination requirement policy is a key part of Evergreen's overall strategy and commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace during the COVID-19 pandemic for the academic year 2021-2022. This policy is designed for use together with, and not as a substitute for, other COVID-19 prevention measures in accordance with current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Thurston County Public Health, and Washington Office of the Governor guidance and mandates.

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Thanks for your help in keeping our community safe! Please continue to take care of yourself and others.

COVID-19 Communications and Promoting Safe Behaviors Team

Contact: COVID@evergreen.edu

Website: www.evergreen.edu/communityready

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