



Student COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

Purpose

In keeping with our values as a Catholic university founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, we are all called to serve one another and act in the gracious, compassionate, and giving spirit of our Sisters in support of the common good for all. Therefore, we are committed to fostering a healthy and caring culture – not only for our campuses, but for the community at large by taking measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

As we approach the Fall semester, COVID-19 and its variants remain a highly transmissible respiratory illness that causes symptoms ranging from mild to severe and can lead to life-threatening illness, hospitalization, and death. MSMU remains committed to support the health and safety of our students and communities. MSMU's actions have been informed and guided by national, state, and local public health policies and guidance to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 disease on our campuses and in our communities. The COVID-19 vaccines have been carefully evaluated in clinical trials and make it substantially less likely an individual will contract COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die, and they protect not only the individuals vaccinated, but also others in the community, particularly those who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Throughout history, vaccinations have been effective in the prevention of many diseases or lessening their effects, and today COVID-19 vaccinations provide us with a powerful tool to make a difference in the health and wellness of the Mount Community. Therefore, MSMU has made the decision to require all students (Undergraduate, Weekend Evening Online, and Graduate) coming to our campuses to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by August 1, 2021. We will consider exemption requests for students with qualifying medical and religious reasons on an individual basis. Where exemptions are granted, the university may require additional COVID-19 testing and other restrictions and conditions.

Scope

All MSMU students (Undergraduate, Weekend Evening Online, and Graduate) for whom the COVID-19 vaccine is approved/authorized by the FDA¹ must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and show proof of vaccination, unless an exemption from this policy has been granted.

Other Infection Control Protocols and Guidance

This Mandatory Student COVID-19 Vaccination Policy is a key part of the University's overall strategy and commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy environment in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy is designed for use together with, and not as a

substitute for, other COVID-19 prevention mitigation measures outlined in the [MSMU Moving the Mount Forward Campus Plan](#), including but not limited to policies and guidance on:

- Symptom Monitoring and Daily Health Screen
- Face Masks
- Physical Social Distancing
- Cleaning and Sanitation
- Health and Safety

We need your full cooperation and compliance with this and other health and safety measures to make them effective.

Vaccination Administration

Students are responsible for scheduling and obtaining all recommended doses of an FDA-approved/authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

Exemptions

The COVID-19 vaccination requirement will consider individual requests for medical and religious exemptions. Individuals granted an exemption, including temporary exemptions as they complete their vaccination sequence, may be subject to additional conditions and restrictions such as use of personal protective equipment, regular COVID-19 testing, daily symptom checks, quarantines and additional COVID-19 training, or other preventative measures necessary to protect the health and well-being of the community. MSMU will keep confidential any information obtained in connection with a request for an exemption and only share such information with those who have an appropriate need to know.

How can a student apply for an exemption from the vaccination requirement? In alignment with our current vaccination policy, vaccine exemptions will be granted for qualifying medical and religious reasons. Students wishing to request an exemption may do so by completing a Vaccination Exemption Application. Please contact studenthealthservices@msmu.edu to request the Vaccination Exemption Application. Completed applications should be submitted, as soon as possible, minimally at least three weeks prior to the anticipated date needed (e.g., housing move-in day; start of classes).

Record of Vaccination

All persons covered under this policy must provide proof of vaccination, or submit a request for an exemption to Student Health Services, in a manner acceptable to MSMU no later than August 1, 2021. Students who are enrolled after August 1st must provide proof of vaccination or receive an approved exemption before permitted to access campus.

A provider certification or CDC-issued vaccination card, which include the vaccination date(s) and vaccine name, are acceptable forms of proof of vaccination. **Students should use the University's secure portal which can be found at: <https://msmu.medicatconnect.com/> to submit proof of vaccination to Student Health Services. MSMU will keep any vaccination information provided confidential and only share such information with those who have a need to know.**

Policy Enforcement

Any person subject to this policy who fails to comply with the terms of this policy established deadline will not be permitted to be present on campus.

Policy Modification

Federal, state and public health guidelines and restrictions and business industry best practices regarding COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines change rapidly as new information becomes available, further research is conducted, and additional vaccines are approved/authorized and distributed. MSMU reserves the right to modify this policy at any time in its sole discretion to adapt to changing circumstance and business needs, consistent to maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Policy Questions

Please direct any questions regarding this policy to Student Health Services at 213.477-2685 or 310-954-4110 or by email at studenthealthservices@msmu.edu.

^[1] For the purpose of this policy, a COVID-19 vaccine is one that has been authorized by the FDA, or a COVID-19 vaccine granted Emergency Authorization by the FDA.