COVID-19 Vaccination Interim Policy

Policy Statement

The California State University (CSU) is committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and the communities we serve, as well as maintaining higher education access and attainment for our students. As we work towards the safe resumption of increased on-campus learning, working and other activities, we embrace a comprehensive strategy designed to reduce the likelihood of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. This approach contributes to the overarching goal of achieving population-level immunity throughout the CSU.

In light of the evidence established to date regarding the effectiveness of available COVID-19 vaccines, the CSU hereby requires that all individuals who access Campus/Programs as defined below must comply with this policy. Students and Employees must have received a COVID-19 vaccine subject to the terms and Exemptions described below. The vaccine requirement in this policy will become effective on each CSU campus and at the Chancellor’s Office on the later of: (1) the start of the applicable campus’s Fall 2021 term; or (2) when a COVID-19 vaccine receives full U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approval and is readily available in the applicable local jurisdiction.

Definitions

1. **Approved Vaccine**: A COVID-19 vaccine that has received full approval from the FDA and is recommended for use by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The following COVID-19 vaccines shall also be deemed to be Approved Vaccines for the purpose of satisfying the vaccination requirement in this policy: (a) a COVID-19 vaccine administered under an FDA Emergency Use Authorization; or (b) a COVID-19 vaccine administered outside of the United States, provided that such vaccine has received approval (including emergency use authorization) by the applicable governmental authority in the country where the vaccine was administered.
2. **Campus/Programs:**
   
   a. Any CSU campus, property or facility owned or operated by the University in connection with its teaching; research, scholarship, and other creative activities; public service; or other programs and services.

   b. Any in-person program or activity (on- or off-campus) operated or controlled by the University. Examples of off-campus programs include CSU-hosted international programs and University-sponsored athletic programs.

3. **Certification:** Submission of information establishing that a Student or Employee has received an Approved Vaccine or qualifies for an Exemption from the vaccine requirement. Each campus will collect from every Student or Employee who seeks access to Campus/Programs the following, as applicable: (1) declaration of current COVID-19 vaccination status (with an Approved Vaccine); (2) declaration of medical Exemption; or (3) declaration of religious Exemption. Each Certification shall include an attestation by the Student or Employee that the information provided is accurate and truthful.

4. **Contractor:** A person or entity, including an Auxiliary Organization, that agrees to conduct work for the CSU as specified under the terms of a contract or agreement.

5. **Employees:** Faculty, staff, volunteers, student workers and administrators of the CSU.

6. **Exemptions:** A Student or Employee may be excused from the vaccine requirement in this policy as described below:
   
   a. **Medical Exemption:** due to a medical (including mental health) condition for which an Approved Vaccine presents a significant risk of a serious adverse reaction. Any medical Exemption must be verified by a certified or licensed healthcare professional.

   b. **Religious Exemption:** due to either (i) a person's sincerely held religious belief, observance, or practice, which includes any traditionally recognized religion, or (ii) beliefs, observances, or practices which an individual sincerely holds and that occupy a place of importance in that individual's life, comparable to that of traditionally recognized religions.

7. **Other Safety Measures:** Any action, as determined by the CSU, other than getting an Approved Vaccine, that decreases the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission or illness and allows the core mission and activities of the campus to continue. Other Safety Measures may include but are not limited to asymptomatic (surveillance) and symptomatic testing; physical/social distancing; wearing face coverings or personal protective equipment; frequent hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; improving ventilation of indoor spaces; and isolation or quarantine when warranted.

8. **Student:** Any admitted, matriculated or continually enrolled student participating in any CSU in-person activities.
Policy

1. In order to access Campus/Programs, a Student or Employee must provide a Certification in accordance with campus procedures.

2. Students and Employees may claim an Exemption to the Approved Vaccine requirement in accordance with campus procedures.

3. In order to access Campus/Programs, any person, including a visitor, who has not obtained an Approved Vaccine or has an Exemption may be subject to Other Safety Measures, as determined by the campus President.

4. Any Student or Employee who does not provide a Certification may be denied access to Campus/Programs.

5. Campus Presidents are responsible for implementing this policy, and may, on rare occasions, consider extenuating or individual circumstances. Any such consideration shall be in consultation with the Chancellor's Office and consistent with all applicable CSU policies including those prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on protected status or activity.

6. This policy supplements and does not replace CSU policies governing Other Safety Measures.

7. Contractors shall ensure that their agents and employees undertake applicable Other Safety Measures. In consideration of the nature of the Contractor's services (including proximity to members of the University community), duration, and extent of on-campus presence, Presidents may, at their discretion, also require that a Contractor's agents and employees receive an Approved Vaccine.

General Provisions

1. Confidentiality of Information. Campus procedures for implementing this policy (including in connection with data collection) shall be governed by applicable CSU policies regarding confidentiality, privacy, and security of health records, as well as state and federal law. Information shall be used only for the specific purpose intended and only accessible to CSU personnel who have a business need-to-know.

2. Accessibility. Campus procedures for implementing this policy shall be governed by applicable CSU policies regarding accessibility, as well as applicable state and federal law.

3. Documentation to Support Certification.
   a. Vaccination Status. Any person submitting a declaration of current COVID-19 vaccination status (with an Approved Vaccine) shall verify that, at the campus's request, they will promptly provide proof of vaccination.
   b. Medical Exemption. Any person submitting a declaration of medical Exemption
shall verify that, at the campus’s request, they will promptly provide documentation from a certified or licensed healthcare professional to support their declaration.

c. Religious Exemption. Any person submitting a declaration of religious Exemption shall verify that, at the campus’s request, they will promptly provide a statement that describes the applicable religious or other comparable belief that is the basis for their Exemption.

4. **Broad Dissemination of Policy Information.** Campuses shall disseminate information about this policy, including Exemptions, using methods designed to reach diverse audiences (including individuals who may not have internet access). Such information shall provide appropriate point(s) of contact for this policy, including email and telephone numbers.

5. **Access and Availability of Vaccinations and Testing.**
   a. COVID-19 testing required by the CSU shall be provided to Students and Employees at no charge.
   b. Information about the availability of Approved Vaccines and COVID-19 testing, including those offered free-of-charge, shall be widely disseminated, using methods designed to reach diverse audiences, including individuals who may not have internet access. Such information shall include how to schedule appointments for vaccination and testing (including location), as well as the type(s) of available COVID-19 tests.

6. **Superseding Public Health Directives.** In the event that a federal, state, or local governing public health agency imposes a requirement that restrictively conflicts with this policy or a campus’s implementation of this policy, the applicable public health mandate shall govern and be implemented. Campuses shall consult with the Office of General Counsel in the event of inconsistent directives issued by agencies with overlapping jurisdiction.

7. **Procedures.** Campus Presidents shall establish procedures to facilitate implementation of this policy.

**Discipline**

Violations of this policy, including dishonesty, may subject Employees to discipline pursuant to California Education Code section 89535. Violations of this policy, including dishonesty, may subject Students to discipline under [CSU Executive Order 1098, Student Conduct Procedures](#).

**Authority**

This policy is issued pursuant to [Section II of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of the California State University](#).
Endnotes

1See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html

2Capitalized terms are defined in the "Definitions" section of this policy.

3Academic and Student Affairs in the Chancellor’s Office is available for consultation regarding COVID-19 vaccines administered in countries outside of the U.S.

Approval Signatures