

Dear UF Health Colleagues,

UF Health plans to comply with President Biden's recent [executive order](#) requiring employees of certain contractors that do business with the federal government to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, unless exempt for medical or sincerely held religious reasons.

As an academic health center, we receive approximately \$1.6 billion in federal grants and contracts and Medicare/Medicaid funding annually, which are critical to our essential missions — enhancing our ability to provide excellent patient care, advance research discoveries that positively impact people's lives, and train the next generation of health care providers. These efforts benefit the public good and positively impact the state economy.

Therefore, in order to comply with the federal executive order, all employees who work under the UF Health umbrella — including faculty and staff of all six health colleges and clinical faculty and staff in our hospitals and physician practices, regardless of their work location — must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by Dec. 8, 2021, or have an approved religious or medical accommodation on file. Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after the last required vaccine dose; the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires one. In other words, your vaccination has to be completed on or before Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have focused our efforts on protecting others by promoting health and safety best practices. Over the last several months, thanks to the efforts of UF Health Screen, Test & Protect, a large percentage of our students, faculty and staff are now already fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Unvaccinated employees should seek their first vaccine dose as soon as possible to meet the deadline. If you have not had the opportunity to get vaccinated yet, you are encouraged to schedule an appointment now. Faculty and staff on UF's main campus can schedule an appointment through <https://ONE.UF.edu/>. In addition, locations throughout the state may be found on the Florida Department of Health's website at <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator/>. Information about additional vaccination opportunities for employees on our health campuses and details regarding documenting vaccination status will be shared soon.

For most employees, information about requesting a medical or religious exemption can be found at <https://bridge.UFHealth.org/covid-19-vaccine-exemptions/> on the UF Health Bridge portal. Employees associated with UF Health Central Florida should complete the appropriate form that will be placed on Vision.

We will continue to monitor conversations at the state and federal level related to the executive order and will assess whether we need to evolve our approach on the basis of other decisions that may surface in the coming weeks and months.

In the meantime, thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for doing your part for the Greater Good as we follow the federal order.

David R. Nelson, MD
Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, UF &
President, UF Health

COVID-19 VACCINE GUIDANCE

Frequently Asked Questions

To which groups does the federal executive order regarding COVID-19 vaccinations apply?

In keeping with the federal executive order, all employees who work under the UF Health umbrella, regardless of their work status or location, must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

Does this apply to the Jacksonville and Central Florida campuses and/or other UF Health locations throughout the state?

Yes. This applies to our hospitals, faculty practices and clinics in Gainesville, Jacksonville and Central Florida and faculty practices throughout the state. This includes faculty and staff of all six health colleges and clinical faculty and staff in our hospitals and physician practices, regardless of their work location.

What is the deadline for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated?

All UF Health faculty and staff should be fully vaccinated by Dec. 8, 2021. Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series for the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Can I receive my vaccination at UF or UF Health? Where can I obtain a vaccination and how do I schedule an appointment?

Yes. Multiple locations are available for individuals to be vaccinated on and off the UF Health campuses. UF Health and UF Health Shands employees in Gainesville can visit [Bridge.UFHealth.org/response/vaccinations/](https://bridge.ufhealth.org/response/vaccinations/) for the latest vaccination information. Faculty and staff on the main UF campus can visit [One.UF.edu](https://one.uf.edu) to schedule a vaccination appointment.

UF Health Central Florida employees can visit <http://vision/user-pdfs/COVID19%20Vaccine%20Booster.pdf?x=1634923688>.

For UF Health Jacksonville, employees have an opportunity to get the COVID-19 vaccine at the following locations:

- UF Health Jacksonville, Tower I, Employee Health Office, Sixth Floor: Mondays – Fridays; 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- UF Health Jacksonville, ACC Building, Ambulatory Pharmacy, First Floor: Tuesdays – Fridays; 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

In addition, locations throughout the state may be found at [coronavirus.UFHealth.org/vaccine-availability](https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccine-availability) or on the Florida Department of Health's website at floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator/.

How do I provide proof of vaccination?

Details regarding documenting vaccination status will be shared soon.

Are there vaccination exemptions? How do I request one?

Yes. All faculty and staff except those employed by UF Health Central Florida should visit the Bridge intranet portal at <https://bridge.UFHealth.org/covid-19-vaccine-exemptions/> for information about requesting a medical or religious exemption. UF Health Central Florida staff should visit [Vision](#) later this morning for information about requesting a medical or religious exemption. Requests for a medical exemption will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Those requesting a religious exemption for sincerely held religious beliefs should complete the attestation on the Bridge. You will be notified if your exemption is approved.

Can an exception be made for an employee who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past and has been tested and found to have COVID-19 antibodies?

No. All employees under the UF Health umbrella are expected to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by Dec. 8.

I am pregnant. Will I be eligible for a medical exemption?

No. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, or ACOG, recommends that all eligible individuals, including those who are pregnant or lactating, be vaccinated.

If I have an approved vaccination exemption, do I need to continue to wear a mask?

Unvaccinated individuals with an approved exemption will be required to wear an N95 mask while at work.

Will UF Health accept internationally approved vaccines even if not authorized or approved in the United States?

Yes, if the vaccine is authorized by the World Health Organization, or [WHO](#).

What if I decide not to get vaccinated?

You have the option to pursue a medical or religious exemption if applicable.

Who should I speak with if I have additional questions?

Please contact your direct supervisor if you have additional questions.