



MINNESOTA STATE

September 17, 2021

COVID-19 Student Proof of Vaccination and Testing Guidelines

Objective

To prevent the transmission of COVID-19 by: requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination status of students who live in college- or university-owned or managed residence facilities and students participating in certain student extra-curricular group activities identified by a college or university. The purpose of these guidelines is to implement the Chancellor's August 18, 2021, memorandum titled "Student COVID-19 vaccination guidelines" and provide standards and expectations for mandatory testing of the covered students who have not provided proof of full COVID-19 vaccination.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities strongly encourages all students to get vaccinated against COVID-19. To protect, to the extent reasonably possible, the health and safety of our students and other members of the campus community from the threat resulting from the spread of COVID-19 in college- or university-owned or managed residence facilities and to students participating in certain student extra-curricular group activities identified by a college or university, students subject to these guidelines must provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status or undergo mandatory COVID-19 testing at least weekly.

These guidelines are subject to change at the discretion of Minnesota State, including based on public health guidance. Students may be subject to additional attestation, vaccinations, or testing requirements based on other applicable policies.

Scope

These guidelines apply to all students who live in a college- or university-owned or managed residence facilities and to students living in residence halls/apartments where the college/university has a partnership agreement with a community or other provider. It also applies to students participating in certain student extra-curricular group activities where social distancing is not possible and that have close and frequent contact with other students (e.g., intramural/club sports, theater productions, music ensembles, etc.,) as identified by a college

or university. Students participating in intercollegiate athletics are subject to college and university athletic department policies consistent with NCAA, NJCAA and conference requirements. Students in clinical or internship sites may be subject to the requirements of those sites.

Exclusions

Student workers, in their capacity as workers, are subject to MMB policy #1446 covering employees.

Definitions and Key Terms

- A. “Fully vaccinated.” According to the CDC, in general, people are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19: (1) 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination series approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) or the World Health Organization (“WHO”); or (2) 2 weeks after a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine approved by the FDA or the WHO. Students who do not meet these requirements are NOT fully vaccinated.
- B. “COVID-19 Test.” A medical test to determine if someone has an active COVID-19 infection. As methods become available, recommended tests may include a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or an antigen test.

General Standards and Expectations

I. Proof of Vaccination Status

Students subject to these guidelines must submit to the designated campus official(s) an attestation regarding their COVID-19 vaccination status, using the identified submission method.

The designated campus official(s) will review the attestation submission and proof of COVID-19 vaccination and verify that they have reviewed the proof of full COVID-19 vaccination provided by the student. Acceptable proof that an individual is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 includes: (1) an original CDC COVID-19 vaccination card; (2) a paper or electronic copy of a CDC COVID-19 vaccination card; or (3) if vaccinated in another country, then an original or copy of an alternative official vaccination record, as proof of FDA- or WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccination status.

Students have the right to refuse to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and to refuse to provide an attestation reflecting their COVID-19 vaccination status, but the student will be considered to be unvaccinated for the purposes of these guidelines.

Proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 must legibly show, at a minimum: (1) name of the individual vaccinated; (2) date of birth of the individual vaccinated; (3) the manufacturer of the vaccine; and the date(s) on which the vaccine was administered.

If the proof is not legible or verifiable in the form presented, the college or university may ask the student to present the original document.

In order to be considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the student must have received a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved by the FDA or the WHO. If the vaccine was administered outside of the United States, documentation must include the above information in English.

The attestation information will be treated as private educational records under applicable law. Information regarding whether a student has shown proof of full vaccination, and information on whether the student must submit to mandatory COVID-19 testing, will be provided to college and university staff, college or university's safety administrator, members of the college or university's staff with a business need to know, and others authorized by law.

Students who provide proof to the designated campus official that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are exempt from participation in the COVID-19 Testing Procedure.

II. COVID-19 Testing Procedures for Students who do not Submit Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination

Students who show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 are not required to submit to COVID-19 testing under these guidelines. Until a student subject to these guidelines submits proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, they must undergo mandatory testing for COVID-19 at least weekly, as determined by the college or university. The COVID-19 test and results must be conducted and handled in compliance with all applicable rules and laws.

- A. If the college or university has a testing facility, then testing will be performed on site. If the college or university does not have a testing facility, the college or university may require students to provide proof of both test submission and test results.
- B. Students have the right to refuse to take a COVID-19 test. Prior to COVID-19 testing, students receive the COVID-19 Testing Consent form. Completed COVID-19 Testing Consent forms must be maintained by college or university.
 - a. Students who consent to COVID-19 testing and sign the consent form and any other forms necessary for testing will proceed with the COVID-19 test.
 - b. Students who refuse to sign the consent form or any other forms necessary for testing, refuse to submit a COVID-19 test, or refuse to provide documentation of test submission and test results if the college or university does not have a testing facility, may be subject to remedial action through the college or university student code of conduct and/or residence life procedures up to and

including removal from the residence halls, removal from the extra-curricular activity, and/or other conduct sanctions.

- c. Students who become fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or who did not previously attest to their full COVID-19 vaccination status may complete a new attestation form, present proof of full vaccination status against COVID-19, and will be removed from the testing requirement.
- C. Procedure for college or universities that have facility testing on site:
- a. The college or university will determine testing dates which will occur at least weekly.
 - b. Covered students undergo COVID-19 test.
 - c. Students are provided the MDH “COVID-19 Post-Test Instructions” form.
 - d. COVID-19 test specimens are submitted to the designated testing laboratory for testing.
 - e. COVID-19 test results are communicated as follows:
 - i. The testing laboratory will deliver the COVID-19 test results to a designated vendor who will communicate the results to the student.
 - ii. The testing laboratory will report positive test results to MDH and/or local public health. State and federal laws may authorize or require MDH to share a student’s health information with others without the student’s consent.
 - iii. The testing laboratory will also report test results to the college or university designated official.
- D. Procedure for colleges and universities that do not have an on-site testing facility.
- a. The college or university will determine testing dates, which will occur at least weekly and will either send the student to a State testing facility or to a non-State testing facility. The college or university has sole discretion to choose or authorize the testing location and whether to accept the results from a particular testing method.
 - b. The student must provide college or university designated official with documentation of test submission on the day required by the college or university and must submit documentation of test results on the same day the student receives them.
- E. Students with positive test results must contact the college or university designated official, and must isolate and quarantine according to current MDH Guidelines.

III. Confidentiality of Medical Information

Colleges and universities must maintain the confidentiality of student COVID-19 test results and vaccination status as provided by law. All information gathered under these guidelines, including test results, vaccination status, attestation forms and signed COVID-19 Testing Consent forms, must be retained according to the applicable retention schedule and in a secure file.

Testing information may be shared with the designated testing laboratory, the designated vendor, the Minnesota Department of Health, local public health, college or university student affairs and residence life staff, college or university safety administrators, members of the college's or university's staff with a business need to know, and others authorized by law.

COVID-19 vaccination status may be shared with college or university student affairs and residence life staff, college or university safety administrators, members of a college's or university's staff with a business need to know, and others authorized by law.

Responsibilities

Colleges and Universities are responsible for:

1. Adopting these guidelines.
2. Communicating these guidelines to all covered students.
3. Requiring covered students to comply with these guidelines, including taking actions for non-compliance as appropriate.
4. For colleges and universities with on-site testing facilities, administering and paying for testing at least weekly.
5. For colleges and universities without on-site testing facilities, reviewing all outside test results received and monitoring student compliance with the testing requirements of these guidelines.
6. Paying for all testing unless paid for by an external party such as the clinical or internship site.
7. Maintaining completed attestation forms.

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