

## The College of Idaho

### 2022-2023 COVID-19 FAQs

#### COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

- **Policy Statement**

The College of Idaho recognizes the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccinations in reducing the potential for infection, transmission, severe illness, and death. COVID-19 vaccines have met the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) rigorous scientific standards for safety and have been approved for Emergency Use Authorization (the Pfizer vaccination has received full FDA approval). Moreover, they have proven to be remarkably safe over the period of their use. For these reasons, and in line with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, the College embraces the COVID-19 vaccine as the primary means for keeping our community safe and fully operational.

Accordingly, effective Fall 2022, all students must adhere to one of the following:

1. Attest to having received one of the World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccinations.
2. Obtain approval for a religious or medical exemption.

- **Compliance**

- COVID-19 Immunization Reporting Forms (new and returning students)

- **Returning Students** - If you are a returning student at the College, please update your status [here](#).
- **New Students** - All new students must complete the Immunization Record Form that can be found in your [incoming student portal](#). Requesting an exemption to the immunization policy can also be found on the Immunization Record form. For questions about immunizations or other College of Idaho health services, please contact the College's Wellness Center via e-mail at [hwc@collegeofidaho.edu](mailto:hwc@collegeofidaho.edu).

- Exemption Forms

The College of Idaho believes it is in the best interests of the campus community when every student is immunized (herd immunity) and, therefore, the College does not allow for personal/philosophical exemptions. The College, however, will consider a medical or religious request for exemption to vaccines; in such instances, [a Medical/Religious Exemptions Request Form](#) must be submitted to the Wellness Center for review and approval before arriving on campus for classes, moving into residence halls, or participating in any official College function. Students who do not have an approved exemption and still have an incomplete immunization record as of the 8th day of classes will have a hold placed on their account and will be removed from the residence halls (no refunds available) until all requirements are met. Students participating

in intercollegiate sports who have incomplete immunization records will not be allowed to practice or compete until they are compliant with the College's immunization policy. Should an outbreak occur on campus, students with approved exemptions or incomplete immunization records (including recommended immunizations) may be asked to begin regular testing at their own expense, restricted from attending classes or other College activities, and/or removed from the residence halls until there is no further immediate risk to the student (no refunds available).

- Timeline

Students must provide all immunization documentation (including COVID-19 Policy Compliance) to The College of Idaho Health & Wellness Center before arriving on campus for classes, moving into residence halls, or participating in any official College function. (Note: if you are unable to meet this timeline due to extenuating circumstances, please contact the Wellness Center Director or the Dean of Students to discuss alternative arrangements)

*Students who have an incomplete immunization record as of the 8th day of classes will have a hold placed on their account and will not be able to register for the following semester. In addition, students with incomplete records may be removed from the residence halls and/or in-person courses until all requirements are met (no refunds available). Students participating in intercollegiate sports who have incomplete immunization records will not be allowed to practice or complete until they are compliant with the College's Immunization Policy.*

- What if I've had COVID-19?
  - All students, regardless of whether or not they've already been infected, must still comply with the College's COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.
- COVID-19 Resources
  - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
    - [Key Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
    - [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
    - [COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
    - [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
    - [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
    - [Finding Credible Vaccine Information](#)
  - World Health Organization
    - [Vaccines explained](#)
    - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Vaccines Safety](#)
    - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) science conversation](#)

### **Campus Contact Information**

- Students
  - [Student COVID-19 Coordinator](#)

- [Director of Health & Wellness](#)]
- [VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students](#)
- [Provost](#)
- Employees
  - [Director of Human Resources](#)

## Health & Safety

- Masks
 

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides [a useful guide to masks](#). In addition to the recommendation that everyone who is eligible be vaccinated, everyone should wear masks (surgical, KN95, or N95) in public indoor settings in [communities with medium or high transmission](#).

Due to Canyon County's low transmission rate status, the College does not currently require students, employees, and visitors to wear masks anywhere on campus.

- Reporting
 

Anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms is also asked to [report](#), so we can take steps to address the safety of our community.

Specific entailments of the policy follow:

- Consistent with CDC recommendations, people with COVID should isolate for **5 days** if asymptomatic or if their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), followed by **5 days of wearing a mask** when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. People who have been exposed but who are not ill fall into two camps. Those who are vaccinated and have received a booster **do not need to quarantine** after exposure to the virus, but should **wear a mask for 10 days**. For those who are unvaccinated or who are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends **quarantine for 5 days** followed by **strict mask use for an additional 5 days**.
- Campus leadership will continue to monitor closely the wide range of data and recommendations that inform our policy, including those from the CDC, the WHO, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and the Southwest Health District. Changes in the metrics directly affecting campus will be communicated along with any policy implications as soon as possible.

## Academics

- All course classes will be conducted in-person on campus.

## Residential Life

- The College maintains a [3-year residency requirement](#).

- Residents will be asked to demonstrate compliance with the College's COVID-19 Vaccination requirement prior to moving in to their assigned rooms. Those who have not yet demonstrated compliance at the time of their move-in will be provided with information on how to demonstrate compliance.

### **Dining**

- All campus dining facilities (Simplot Dining Hall, McCain Café, and CM Library Café) will be in full, regular operation, including the ability to dine on-site. The College reserves the right to alter dining services, e.g. grab-and-go, when conditions warrant.

### **International Students and Others Travelling from Abroad**

- In compliance with [CDC travel guidelines](#), any student travelling from another country is expected to adhere to the following safety measures:
  - You will need to get a COVID-19 viral test (regardless of vaccination status or citizenship) no more than 1 day before you travel by air into the United States. You must show your negative result to the airline before you board your flight.
  - If you recently recovered from COVID-19, you may instead travel with documentation of recovery from COVID-19 (i.e., your positive COVID-19 viral test result on a sample taken no more than 90 days before the flight's departure from a foreign country **and** a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel).
  - Regardless of vaccination status, obtain a COVID-19 test (this can be obtained through the College's Wellness Center, or at any off-campus location of your choice, such as Rite Aid), and self-quarantine, if exhibiting any symptoms pending the results; if negative, then no further precautions are necessary.

### **Athletics**

- Full team activities and competitions.
- Will adhere to the Cascade Conference's [Commitment to Play Guidelines](#).

### **Events**

- There will be no COVID-related restrictions on the size or nature of any official College-sponsored event.