

The College of Idaho

Fall 2021 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 2021, 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.
 3. Consent to weekly COVID-19 testing through the College's Wellness Center, or elsewhere at personal expense.
- **Compliance**
 - **COVID-19 Immunization Reporting Forms (new and returning students)**
 - **Returning Students** - If you are a returning student at the College, all that is required is [this COVID-19 Immunization request](#).
 - **New Students** - All new students must complete the [Immunization Record Form](#) and return it to the College's Wellness Center. This form can be hand-delivered to the Wellness Center located in Hendren Hall, faxed to (208) 459-5182 attn. Health Services, or mailed to The College of Idaho, Wellness Center, 2112 Cleveland Blvd., Caldwell, ID 83605.
 - **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 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).

- COVID-19 Testing
 - It is the responsibility of the student to obtain weekly COVID-19 testing through the College's Wellness Center, or elsewhere at personal expense.
- 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 compete 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.
- Will I be required to get weekly tests if I receive an exemption?
 - Students who receive an approved exemption must also participate in weekly COVID-19 testing.
- What happens if the College obtains "herd immunity"?
 - The College's ultimately objective is to achieve vaccination levels among students and employees that provide reasonable assurances for the safety of our community members, and allow for continued normal operations. The College will be closely monitoring vaccination rates, and should we achieve sufficiently high levels, then the COVID-19 Vaccination Policy will be reconsidered, accordingly.
- 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 for everyone, even fully vaccinated people, to wear masks (surgical, KN95, or N95) in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.

The College currently **requires all students, employees, and visitors to wear masks in all indoor public settings on campus**. Furthermore, the Omicron variant is proving to be much more transmissible than other variants, so the College recommends the use of surgical masks, CDC-approved KN95 (without vents), or [NIOSH approved](#) N95 masks, which provide greater protection (filtering out at least 95% of airborne particles, according to the [CDC](#)) than cloth masks.

Specific entailments of the policy follow:

- Masks must be worn inside academic buildings, including hallways en route to and from classes, and inside classrooms; instructors may at times remove their mask to facilitate communication necessary to the teaching endeavor as long as physical distancing can be maintained.
- Masks do *not* need to be worn in private residence hall rooms, private offices, and outdoors (special guidelines apply to outdoor events; see below).
- Participants in outdoor events do not need to wear masks if physical distancing is practiced; when physical distancing is not possible, masks are strongly

recommended. Masks are required at indoor events (aside from Varsity Athletes in competition).

- Varsity Athletics teams do not need to wear masks during practice and competitions, but are encouraged to do so when not actively working out.
- In the cafeterias, masks may be removed when eating or drinking, but they must be worn upon entry, while selecting food, and after the meal is complete.
- Individuals are encouraged to continue adhering to [precautions](#) recommended by medical authorities, such as physical distancing, frequent hand-washing, disinfecting, etc.

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**.

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.

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.

- [YotePact](#)
- [COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form](#)

Academics

- All course classes will be conducted in-person on campus.
- Masks must be worn inside academic buildings, including hallways en route to and from classes, and inside classrooms; instructors may at times remove their mask to facilitate communication necessary to the teaching endeavor as long as physical distancing can be maintained.

Residential Life

- The College maintains a [3-year residency requirement](#).
- Residents will be asked to demonstrate compliance with the College's COVID-19 Vaccination Policy 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, including access to vaccination and testing services through the College's Wellness Center.

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.
- In the cafeterias, masks may be removed when eating or drinking, but they must be worn upon entry, while selecting food, and after the meal is complete.

International Students and Others Travelling from Abroad

- In compliance with CDC international travel guidelines, any student arriving on campus having travelled from another country is expected to adhere to the following safety measures:
 - If fully vaccinated, then 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 (approximately 24 hours); if negative, then no further precautions are necessary.
 - If not fully vaccinated, then obtain a COVID-19 test (this can be obtained through the College's Wellness Center), and self-quarantine for 5 days. Unvaccinated students will also need to comply with the College's COVID-19 Vaccination policy by obtaining the vaccine, completing an exemption request form, or agreeing to weekly testing. Vaccination and testing can be arranged through the College's Wellness Center, or at local providers, such as Rite Aid, Walgreens, Albertsons, and Primary Health.

Athletics

- Full team activities and competitions.
- Will adhere to the Cascade Conference's [Commitment to Play Guidelines](#).
- The Cascade Conference is testing all non-vaccinated student athletes.

Events

- There will be no COVID-related restrictions on the size or nature of any official College-sponsored event, except for mask provisions (see mask guidance under Health & Safety for more details), and dining limitations when in effect
- The College's Department of Special Events will consider external organization-sponsored events on a case-by-case basis.