



Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Protocols for SUNY Downstate Students in Summer/Fall 2021

As Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at SUNY Downstate, I am looking forward to welcoming you to Downstate in the Summer/Fall. The purpose of this communication is to update you about the requirements for COVID-19 vaccinations for the Summer/Fall 2021 semester.

Last week, Governor Cuomo announced that students at all SUNY and CUNY colleges and universities will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before arriving on campus for the Summer/Fall 2021 semester if you will be participating in in-person courses. This requirement is contingent on final approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have received your vaccine already, thank you! As part of your clearance process, we will ask that you provide proof of your vaccination. (You do not have to do so now.)

If you have not received the vaccine, we anticipate that the FDA will formally take up approval of a COVID-19 vaccine within the next several months. To avoid any disruption or inconvenience, we strongly encourage you to complete your COVID-19 vaccination cycle as soon as possible so that you have it complete at least two weeks before arriving on campus for the Summer/Fall 2021 semester. Please remember that you are not protected until two weeks after your last required dose.

At this time, SUNY Downstate does not have specific guidance on possible exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccine requirements. While we anticipate that these exemptions would follow allowed exemptions for other vaccines such as MMR, we don't know what the specific exemptions will be and we expect that any exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccine requirement will be very limited and require proper documentation. There is no need to contact SUNY Downstate regarding exemptions at this time because we do not have additional information about what the exemptions might be if any.

We will provide more direction on the vaccine requirement as soon as it made available by SUNY and New York State, as appropriate.

In the interim, if you have not already done so, we encourage you to get vaccinated. If you wish to get your Vaccine at SUNY Downstate, we encourage you to click on the below link and you will be contacted by SUNY Downstate's University Hospital Vaccination Program to schedule a time to take your vaccine on-campus if you wish.

- [COVID Vaccine Student Appointment Survey](#)

You can also visit the New York State or New York City Vaccination finder to obtain a free COVID vaccine anywhere in New York City or New York State:

- <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
- <http://nyc.gov/vaccinefinder>

We look forward to welcoming you to Downstate in the Summer/Fall and your attention to this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Putman, Ed.D.
Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs