

Clinical Site COVID Vaccination Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on August 1, 2023

1. Who sets the vaccination requirements pertaining to COVID-19?

Each clinical partner site sets its own requirements for employees and affiliated learners (i.e., health program students). LCCC does not have a COVID-19 vaccination requirement. At this time, the majority of LCCC's healthcare facilities with whom LCCC has a Clinical Affiliation Agreement do have requirements that students document their COVID-19 vaccination status for the current year.

2. Why must LCCC students comply with clinical site mandates?

Health program students are required to complete clinical experiences as part of their education. Clinical experiences can only be obtained in actual health-care facilities. LCCC has entered into Clinical Affiliation Agreements with clinical sites to provide this clinical experience. These Clinical Affiliation Agreements are important because they provide educationally valid clinical sites to students that are recognized by the applicable accreditation agency. The clinical sites determine the relationships between LCCC HSW students and the clinical sites and detail the terms under which each site will provide on-site educational experiences. These agreements account for regulatory requirements, accreditation expectations, and other guidelines, and the sites have been approved as meeting specific educational and clinical regulations. These agreements include provisions requiring students to adhere to agency policies relevant to their clinical experiences.

3. Who sets the dates for completing the vaccinations and waiting period?

Each clinical partner has set its own compliance deadline for requiring individuals to complete the vaccination(s). Some clinical sites may also require a two-week waiting period after the second dose as part of their timeline. Typically, these timelines are based on Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

4. What is the deadline for receiving the full course of a COVID-19 vaccination?

The deadline to upload documentation will coincide with the deadline for completing program and other clinical placement requirements in CastleBranch.

5. I am not currently in a clinical experience. Do I still need to get the vaccine now?

The best tool against COVID-19 is to stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccination. Up to date means a person has received all recommended doses in their primary series COVID-19 vaccine, and a booster when eligible.

Students are responsible for learning about and adhering to the requirements of all courses they are enrolled in. While not an LCCC requirement, students are encouraged to receive the vaccine or work with program officials to seek an exemption as early as possible to avoid potential delays in placement or progression in their desired health program of study.

6. I have an allergic reaction to vaccines and can't get the COVID-19 vaccine. What should I do?

Each clinical site has created an exemption process and students may request an exemption. However, if the clinical site denies the exemption, the student should explore other options available based on their program and circumstances, such as receiving an alternative COVID-19 vaccine* or working with their respective health program to locate another placement site. Please be advised that alternative clinical placement is dependent upon program clinical capacity requirements, the ability of the student to meet the alternative site's COVID-19 policies, and provided that no other students' clinical experiences are impacted.

*There may be alternative vaccines or precautions students can take that will meet the student's placement site requirements. Please discuss this with your primary care provider.

7. I want to request a medical exemption from getting this vaccine.

Generally, each clinical partner determines its own process for accepting requests for exemptions. The individual program can provide you with the necessary contact information for this process. The length of time the clinical site takes to make a determination about your request should be taken into account, as it may cause a delay in the start of your clinical rotation.

Note: There is no guarantee that a request for exemption will be granted by a clinical site. If the assigned clinical site will not accept the student's request for exemption, the program *may* attempt to locate an alternate site, subject to clinical capacity and program accreditation requirements. If the program is unable to secure an alternative clinical site, this may jeopardize a student's ability to progress in their program.

8. My religion prohibits me from getting the COVID vaccine.

Generally, each clinical site will determine its own process for accepting requests for exemptions. The clinical site can provide you with the necessary contact information for this process. The length of time the clinical site takes to make a determination about your request should be taken into account, as it may cause a delay in the start of your clinical rotation.

Note: There is no guarantee that a request for exemption will be granted by a clinical site. If the assigned clinical site will not accept the student's request for exemption, the program may attempt to locate an alternate site, subject to clinical

capacity and program accreditation requirements. If the program is unable to secure an alternative clinical site, this may jeopardize a student's ability to progress in their program.

9. The clinical site that I have been assigned only has an exemption process for its employees, but does not have an exemption process for students. How is this handled?

If a clinical site has other exemption requirements, please refer these to the Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Wellness.

10. The clinical site that I have initially been placed for my clinical rotation does not require the vaccine. Must I get the COVID vaccine now?

Students must meet all clinical site compliance requirements. If the site does not require the vaccine, you are not required by LCCC or HSW to obtain the COVID vaccine. However, if the clinical site changes its requirements and/or if the program's clinical rotation and competency requirements later place you at (a) clinical site(s) that mandate(s) the COVID vaccine, students must comply with each site's COVID infection control and vaccination policies.