

## Canisius College Student Vaccination FAQs

### Why is Canisius College requiring the vaccine?

The Covid vaccines have been proven effective in mitigating the effects of the aggressive Delta variant. Requiring the vaccine is a vital step for our community in order to have the full in-person campus experience we all want. The vaccines have proven safe and effective, according to public health experts and agencies around the world, including the CDC.

### What does it mean to be “fully vaccinated”?

In general, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people are considered fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine, or
- At the time specified in either the FDA licensure or World Health Organization (WHO) approval, after the final administration of any other vaccines.

### Who will pay for the vaccine?

As part of the CDC’s national vaccination program, vaccines are free of charge.

In addition, local pharmacies, health clinics, and primary care providers are also providing access to COVID-19 vaccines free of charge.

### When must I get vaccinated to be able to attend in-person classes?

Students must be fully vaccinated by January 18, 2022. To demonstrate you are fully vaccinated, upload proof of vaccination into the MyCanisius Health Portal.

- Your first dose should be administered **no later** than December 7, 2021 for the Moderna vaccine or December 14, 2021 for the Pfizer vaccine.
- Your second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or the single shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine must be administered **no later than January 4, 2022** to be considered fully vaccinated.

### What is the deadline for uploading or submitting my vaccination documentation?

Vaccination records must be uploaded by January 10, 2022 at the latest. Students taking in-person or hybrid classes who fail to upload their proof of vaccination by that date will be subject to potential academic withdrawal that could also impact their financial aid and make them ineligible for refunds for the courses.

**What if I have received the proper dosage of the vaccine, but I will not be considered fully vaccinated until after the start of the spring semester? Or what if I have just one dose of a two-dose series when classes begin? Will I lose my place at Canisius?**

No. While it typically takes 2 weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection against the virus that causes Covid-19, students who have received at least one dose will be permitted to return to classes, but must participate in the college's testing program until they are considered fully vaccinated.

**I have already had Covid and, therefore, have natural immunity to the disease. Do I still need to be vaccinated?**

Yes. As of now, there is no way to reliably measure a person's level of natural immunity so the vaccine is still required.

**Is it possible to request a religious or medical exemption?**

Enrolled students may request an exemption from the requirement that they submit proof of Covid-19 vaccination for medical or religious reasons.

Requests for medical and religious exceptions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and they are not automatically granted.

**How do I apply for a religious exception or a medical exemption?**

To be considered, please complete the [medical exemption](#) or the [religious exemption](#) form (refer to links).

Students requesting an exemption for medical reasons will be required to submit a statement from their medical provider explaining the medical reason for this and the period for which the exemption is being requested.

Students requesting an exception for religious reasons will be required to submit a written statement, signed by the student explaining how immunization conflicts with the student's religious beliefs.

**When are exemption requests due to Canisius?**

Because medical and religious exemption requests are considered on a case by case basis and require additional processing time, **exemption forms must be submitted no later than December 1, 2021, following Thanksgiving Break.**

**If I receive an approved religious exception or medical exemption, what guidelines must I follow on campus?**

Students who are not vaccinated must participate in the college's testing program. They must wear a mask indoors and outdoors while on campus and practice social distancing. In addition, they may be excluded from certain academic and co-curricular activities such as internships, social events, and sporting events.

**Do vaccinated students still have to quarantine if they are found to be a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID?**

Students who have received either two doses of Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior are now not always required to quarantine following an exposure to COVID-19. Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated students will not have to quarantine if exposed. Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 should get tested and quarantine until they receive a negative test result.

**If I am fully vaccinated, do I still have to wear a mask and engage in social distancing in the spring semester?**

We are considering this question and will let the campus community know by the start of the spring semester. This will depend on the community's infection rate and our success in getting the entire campus vaccinated.

**If I must participate in the college's testing program will I have to pay another \$250 fee?**

No. At present there is no plan to do this.