

**Why is NMC requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for students?**

The decision to require Covid-19 vaccinations for students follows an August 12, 2021, joint announcement from all major health systems in the Omaha and Lincoln metro areas that they are moving forward with the requirement that healthcare staff, students and faculty be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to take part in clinical/fieldwork at any of their facilities. Nebraska Methodist College students are part of the healthcare community and required to be fully vaccinated. We are here to help you with this process.

**What are my next steps?**

- Visit the [COVID 19 Resource website](#) for vaccination information as soon as possible.
- Upload proof of vaccination in your program compliance tracker, CastleBranch or Typhon.
- Complete the vaccination process by the November 1, 2021 deadline.
- Reach out to Campus Health, your Program Director, academic advisor or Dean of Students with questions.
- Students who have submitted proof of vaccination do not need to do anything further.

**What does it mean to be fully vaccinated?**

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's vaccine.

**How do I let NMC know that I have been vaccinated?**

Students that have with either a CastleBranch or Typhon account to track immunization compliance are required to submit proof of vaccination or a completed exemption. Please follow your login instructions and upload your documentation.

Students in programs that do not require a CastleBranch or Typhon account are exempt from the Covid-19 vaccination requirement at this time, but may need to provide proof of vaccination if coming to campus in the future.

Contact Campus Health @ (402) 354-7211 with questions regarding your CastleBranch account. Doctor of Nursing Practice students contact your Program Director with questions regarding your Typhon account.

**How do I file for an exemption from the vaccination requirement?**

You do have a choice to not be vaccinated. Unfortunately, clinic sites do not have to accept students who are not vaccinated even with exemptions. We are here to help you with this process.

Students have the option to seek an exemption from the Covid-19 vaccination requirement due to medical or religious reasons. Exemption forms are available from Campus Health.

In order to complete an exemption request, students will need to meet with their academic advisor, program director, academic dean, or Dean of Students to discuss how their vaccination status will impact their ability to attend clinical/fieldwork and graduate. In addition, medical requests will need the signature of a medical professional attesting to the reason for exemption.

All student who have previously submitted a Covid-19 vaccine declination form via CastleBranch or Typhon need to complete and submit a new exemption form. The exemption form must be completed as instructed and uploaded to CastleBranch or Typhon by November 1, 2021. Completed forms with appropriate documentation will be accepted.

Please be very aware that although you have completed and uploaded an exemption form, NMC cannot guarantee clinical or fieldwork placement. Clinical site-specific immunization policies may still exclude you from participation in clinical activities; thus, prohibiting progression in your program. NMC is required to follow clinical site-specific policies and cannot prepare simultaneous or virtual alternate clinical plans for students that are unable to attend clinical/fieldwork due to vaccination status.

#### **What vaccines are acceptable to meet the requirement?**

Acceptable vaccines for coronavirus include those approved for emergency use by the FDA (Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson). For students who have only received the first of a two-part vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna), the second dose must be received by or before November 1, 2021.

#### **Where can I get my vaccination?**

Vaccine distribution is managed by federal and state agencies. Go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), or if locally, [Douglas County Health Department](#) Community Vaccine Clinics, to find vaccines, register, and receive your vaccine.

#### **What policies will apply differently to unvaccinated students versus vaccinated students?**

If a **vaccinated** student is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 and remains asymptomatic, they will not have to quarantine. If an **unvaccinated** student is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, they will have to quarantine regardless of whether they demonstrate symptoms. Students who miss class, lab or clinical for quarantine and isolation will need to work individually with their faculty and clinical instructors to determine how to keep up with coursework and clinical/fieldwork competencies.

#### **Will NMC offer COVID-19 vaccination clinics on campus?**

Yes, dates and information will be communicated soon. The clinics will be open to any NMC student, employee, and their family members. Vaccinations are free.

#### **Will facemasks be required on campus?**

Yes. All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a facemask on campus except when eating/drinking (with appropriate distancing) or alone in a private room or private vehicle. Faculty may remove their face covering while delivering in-class instruction. Residents of campus housing are not

required to wear a facemask while in their own apartments, but facemasks should be worn in all housing common areas (hallways, laundry rooms, storage areas, etc.)

Anyone coming to NMC should bring and wear a personal facemask. If needed, a facemask may be obtained from the Clark entrance front desk.

This policy is based on guidelines from the CDC. Face coverings are prohibited for children two years or younger, as they can cause suffocation.

### **Where can I learn more about COVID-19 vaccines?**

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines available, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/your-vaccination](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/your-vaccination). At this webpage, you will be able to learn about why the currently available vaccines are safe and effective, how to get a vaccination, what vaccines have been approved for emergency use by the FDA, and how you can prepare for your vaccination.

### **Who can I contact at NMC for more information?**

We understand that you may have questions about the process to submit your vaccine documents or the exemption process. If you don't find your questions addressed in this document, you can contact the following folks for help:

- CastleBranch, how to upload required documents, exemptions, or specific medical circumstances: NMC Campus Health – 402.354.7211 or [campushealth@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:campushealth@methodistcollege.edu).
- Academic program requirements and academic progression: Academic Advising or your Program Director
  - Neil Volker at [Neil.Volker@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Neil.Volker@methodistcollege.edu)
  - Katie Meints at [Kathleen.Meints@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Meints@methodistcollege.edu)
  - Jane McClure at [Jane.McClure@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Jane.McClure@methodistcollege.edu)
  - Alina Borkowski at [Alina.Borkowski@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Alina.Borkowski@methodistcollege.edu)
  - Lisa Johnson at [Lisa.Johnson2@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Lisa.Johnson2@methodistcollege.edu)
- Questions not covered in the above categories – Contact Sarah Murphy, Chief Student Officer/Dean of Students at [Sarah.Murphy@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Sarah.Murphy@methodistcollege.edu) or schedule a meeting via her [Calendly link](#).
- You may also submit questions via the NMC [Compliments, Comments and Concerns](#) reporting link.

Additional Student Resources available include:

- Student Assistance Program (SAP)—Free, confidential counseling services are available for NMC on-ground and online students and their spouses and dependents. 24/7/365 days of the year (nights and weekends, too). Call (402) 354-8020 or (800) 776-6233 to connect with a counselor. More information is available at: [www.BestCareEAP.org](http://www.BestCareEAP.org) Member ID: bcNMCSAPe Password: NMCSAP Email: [EAP@BestCareEAP.org](mailto:EAP@BestCareEAP.org)

- Campus Counseling—Contact Kathy Dworak at [Kathy.Dworak@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Kathy.Dworak@methodistcollege.edu)
- Academic Success, ADA accommodations—Contact Lisa Flairty at [Lisa.Flairty@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Lisa.Flairty@methodistcollege.edu) or Stacey Nelson at [Stacey.Nelson@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Stacey.Nelson@methodistcollege.edu)
- TRIO SSS—Contact Lisa Johnson at [Lisa.Johnson2@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Lisa.Johnson2@methodistcollege.edu)
- Spiritual Resources—Contact Kim Haizlip at [Kimberly.Haizlip@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Haizlip@methodistcollege.edu)
- Student Engagement—Contact Jenny Christian at [Jennifer.Christian@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Christian@methodistcollege.edu)
- Campus Housing—Contact your RAs or Jennifer Harm at [Jennifer.Harm@methodistcollege.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Harm@methodistcollege.edu)
- Financial Aid Office—If you are experiencing financial hardship, the Financial Aid team is here to help. [Click here](#) to contact a Financial Aid counselor.

**When do I need to get my first dose of the vaccination in order to meet the November 1, 2021 compliance date?**

It is advised to begin your vaccination sequence as soon as possible, but no later than six weeks prior to the November 1<sup>st</sup> compliance date.

**If I've already submitted a declination form, do I need to re-submit a medical or religious exemption?**

Yes. The new form is an exemption request based on either medical or religious reasons that will be used to inform clinical/fieldwork placement. The exemption request is a separate process from the declination and requires different information and/or documentation for completion. A completed exemption must be uploaded in CastleBranch or Typhon by November 1, 2021.

**If I've already submitted an exemption form at my work, do I need to submit a medical or religious exemption with NMC?**

Yes. The processes for employee's compliance with their employer and compliance with clinical placements as a student are different. Generally, clinical placement compliance requirements are stricter and reviewed by the clinical sites with higher scrutiny.

**What if I don't meet the compliance deadline?**

Students who have not submitted proof of vaccination or a completed medical or religious exemption will not be able to enroll for Spring 2022 NMC courses, may be dropped from all Fall 2021 courses and clinical/fieldwork and placed on an immediate leave of absence. Spring 2022 registration holds will be placed on student accounts in October. No exceptions will be made to the student withdrawal or refund policy based on vaccination status.

**What if I don't want to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

NMC has a process for requesting medical or religious exemptions. Please be aware that clinical/fieldwork sites have their own policies that vary, and NMC is required to follow those site-specific policies. NMC cannot prepare simultaneous or virtual alternate clinical plans for students that are unable to attend clinical/fieldwork due to vaccination status.

**Is my vaccination status HIPAA protected?**

The HIPAA privacy rule is not implicated in our process of asking students to upload proof of COVID-19 vaccination or an exemption. There are other laws that protect student information, as well as

information collected from students in response to a medical inquiry. NMC will follow best practices and comply with applicable laws in maintaining privacy and security with respect to student vaccination status.

**Are vaccinations required for faculty and staff?**

Yes, Methodist Health System requires COVID-19 vaccinations for NMC faculty and staff. This includes adjunct faculty members, part-time employees, and full-time contract workers.

**Are visitors to campus, such as family members, required to provide documentation of a COVID-19 vaccination?**

No. The COVID-19 vaccination requirement only applies to students, faculty, staff, and certain contract workers. Visitors are required to follow NMC's health and safety policies, including masking protocols.