



# ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE

## **ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE** **STUDENT COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY**

### **Purpose**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Francis College (the “College”) has focused on two goals: protecting our community’s well-being by minimizing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and delivering an outstanding Franciscan educational experience dedicated to student success and achievement. For the Fall 2021 semester, the College’s goals are no different; the focus continues to be on the health and well-being of the College community as well as the educational experience provided to our students. The College also continues to take into account – and comply with, as required - guidance and information from local, state, and federal government, health authorities, and other sources as it moves forward.

As a result, the College will require all students returning to campus, accessing College buildings (residential and non-residential), and/or participating in in-person College sponsored events or programs during the 2021-2022 academic year to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and to provide proof of vaccination or receive an approved exemption (as detailed below) prior to the Fall 2021 semester. Our goal for the Fall 2021 semester is to have as many members of the campus community vaccinated as possible, enabling the return of in-person campus activity and reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within our community. Vaccination is a critical part of the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and New York State (“NYS”) public health guidelines; there are different, less restrictive guidelines for those who are vaccinated compared to the guidelines for those who are not.

The College is adopting this policy to safeguard the health of our students, employees, and their families, our guests and visitors, and the community at large from COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible. This policy will comply with all applicable laws and is based on guidance from the CDC, state, and local health authorities, as applicable. Please direct any questions regarding this policy to the Back to Brooklyn Team at [backtobk@sfc.edu](mailto:backtobk@sfc.edu).

### **Scope**

All students are required to receive full COVID-19 vaccinations as a condition of returning to campus, having access to College buildings (residential and non-residential), and/or participating in in-person College events for the 2021-2022 academic year. Students not in compliance with this policy will not be permitted on campus, in the Residence Hall, or to participate in in-person College sponsored events or programs.<sup>1</sup> Students may request an exemption from the vaccination requirement for documented medical or religious reasons via the process outlined below.

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<sup>1</sup> Students who do not need to access College buildings (residential and non-residential), programs, or activities will not need to provide proof of vaccination or exemption, however, we strongly encourage them to do so as soon as possible.



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## **Procedures**

**All College students planning to return to campus, access College buildings (residential and non-residential), and/or participate in in-person College sponsored events or programs must receive a full COVID-19 vaccination by August 1, 2021.**

A full vaccination is currently defined by the CDC as two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after a single-dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

SFC students can be vaccinated through a New York City (“NYC”) or NYS administered site or through an authorized vaccination site, including hospitals and pharmacies.

- Drop by a NYC [walk-in vaccination site](#). No appointment necessary.
- Schedule an appointment at a NYC or NYS vaccination site:
  - [New York State vaccination appointments](#)
  - [New York City vaccination appointments](#)
- Schedule an appointment at a local pharmacy:
  - [CVS](#)
  - [Rite Aid](#)
  - [Walgreens](#)
- NYC and NYS have each launched hotlines, which may be used by eligible members of the community to schedule a vaccination appointment:
  - NYC: **(877) VAX-4NYC** (1-877-829-4692)
  - NYS: **(833) NYS-4VAX** (1-833-697-4829)
- Through an Authorized Vaccination Site (Including Hospitals and Pharmacies)
  - Visit [Northwell Health](#) website

International students who are unable to access the COVID-19 vaccine prior to arrival in the U.S. should be able to get vaccinated in New York without issue. To the extent possible, the College will assist international students who could not be vaccinated in their home countries.

## **How to Upload Your CDC Vaccination Card**

Before the August 1, 2021 deadline to be vaccinated has expired, students will be required to provide either proof of vaccination or receive an approved exemption (as detailed below) from the requirements.

SFC has created a process to enable students to upload proof of completed vaccination using the SFC COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Portal. Please let us know if you been vaccinated already.

Uploads of proof of vaccination are confidentially stored in the SFC COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Portal.

- Access the [SFC Health Portal](#)
- Enter your SFC user ID and password (same as your SFC email)



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- Fill out the form and click the Upload button to upload a copy or picture of your vaccine card.

## **Confidentiality and Retention of Records**

The information you provide will be used to prevent and respond to the presence of COVID-19 on campus and to comply with federal, state, local, and College public health guidelines. The information will be maintained confidentially and in accordance with all applicable laws and public health regulations.

## **Exemptions From Vaccination Requirement**

Students may seek and be granted an exemption from the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirement via medical exemption or religious exemption. Students requesting an exemption from this policy due to a medical reason or because of a sincerely held religious belief must submit a completed [Request for Accommodation form](#) and include the applicable COVID-19 vaccine exemption request form as a supporting document. The COVID-19 vaccine exemption request forms, which are available after completion of the vaccine proof submission and should be submitted to OAA by either uploading the form as a supporting document with your online Accommodations Request form or emailing it to [aaa@sfc.edu](mailto:aaa@sfc.edu) instead of being uploaded with the Request for Accommodation form. However, requests for exemption from the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirement will not be considered fully submitted until both the Request for Accommodation form **and** the applicable COVID-19 vaccine exemption request form ([Medical Exemption](#) or [Religious Exemption PDF](#)) have been received by OAA.

Students are encouraged to begin the interactive accommodation process as soon as possible. Accommodations may be granted where they do not cause the College undue hardship or pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

Please contact Caitlin McGuire, MSW, Assistant Director of Accessibility and Accommodations at [cmcguire@sfc.edu](mailto:cmcguire@sfc.edu) or 718-489-2047 with any questions regarding this process.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, the College shall take necessary precautions to protect both medically and religiously exempt individuals from exposure to COVID-19. This may include exclusion from classes or campus.

## **Exclusion**

Any student who has not submitted proof of their COVID-19 vaccination or been granted an exemption by the College from the vaccine mandate by August 1, 2021 will not be permitted on campus, in the Residence Hall or any other College buildings, or to participate in in-person College sponsored events or programs.



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## **Conclusion**

It is critical for the College to obtain information about vaccination rates in order to make informed decisions about in-person campus activity, COVID-19 testing, masking and social distancing, quarantine and screening requirements, and how to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the campus community.

Please note that our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccinations continues to evolve, and SFC will continue to monitor and rely on the most up-to-date scientific information, public health guidelines, and local, state and federal requirements available to make informed decisions about College operations. Our policies and plans will be updated as appropriate as more information becomes available and we will continue to provide regular updates.

Continued progress in vaccination will hopefully provide the College greater confidence in easing restrictions for masking and social distancing on campus. In the meantime, please note that all current mask and social distancing requirements remain in place at this time and until further notice.