

# **Massachusetts Community Colleges COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Updated as of October 18, 2021

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## **Are COVID-19 vaccines required at the community colleges?**

Effective January 2022, Massachusetts Community College students, faculty, and staff must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and submit verification of their fully vaccinated status to the College absent an approved reasonable accommodation. *The Colleges will be providing information to employees about the verification process following impact bargaining with applicable unions. If they have not already done so, the colleges will be providing information to students as to how to submit verification in the upcoming weeks.*

## **Why are vaccines being required at the community colleges?**

With the number of new cases of COVID-

## **What is the definition of fully vaccinated?**

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The community colleges use the CDC's definition of full vaccination status, which currently provides that "[i]n general, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine."

Any changes in the CDC's definition of full vaccination status, including but not limited to booster shots, will be incorporated by reference into the community colleges' requirement.

## **Where can vaccines be obtained?**

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Many of the community colleges are hosting vaccine clinics on their campuses so check their websites for dates and times. Additional resources for accessing a COVID-19 vaccine include:

- [Vaxfinder](#)
- [COVID-19 Mobile Vaccine Program](#)
- [Additional Vaccine Resources](#)

## **What alternatives are available to students who are unable to be fully vaccinated?**

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Students who are unable to be fully vaccinated may take online courses and utilize services remotely. Students may also request a reasonable accommodation and the College will engage in an interactive process consistent with applicable laws and college policy to determine if eligible for a reasonable accommodation, and if so, whether the requested accommodation is reasonable and does not create an undue burden or direct threat to health or safety. In the event a reasonable accommodation is approved, Students may be subject to additional health and safety protocols and/or be excluded from campus and/or college activities including but not limited to travel for the protection of health or safety, as determined by the College in consideration of local, state, and/or or federal laws and public health guidance and/or mandates.

*The colleges will be communicating the process for requesting a reasonable accommodation related to the COVID-19 vaccination requirement in the coming weeks.*

## **Is the vaccine required for those who have already recovered from COVID-19?**

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Yes. According to the CDC, full vaccination is recommended for those who have had COVID-19.