



**1. Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have determined that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective, and studies have shown they prevent severe illness and death from the virus. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html> for information.

Therefore, CAU is requiring students, faculty, and staff to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination prior to returning to campus in the fall in order to protect the health and safety of the campus community this fall, particularly people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and to ensure that everyone can experience a vibrant campus community in the fall.

**2. I'm concerned that these vaccines have not been tested enough.**

- To date, the FDA has authorized three vaccines for emergency use in the United States. These vaccines have also been recommended for use by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. To assist you in understanding the phases a vaccine must complete before being determined safe enough for public release, click [HERE](#) to access an infographic from the National Institutes of Health.

**3. Where can I get vaccinated?**

- There are numerous vaccination sites across the country. You should check with your local public health departments for vaccination sites, as well as CVS and Walgreen pharmacies. In addition, CAU is an approved Point of Dispensing (POD) by the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). If you are interested in receiving the vaccine at CAU, please schedule an appointment via the [My Panther Health Portal](#).

**4. Which COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson) should I take to satisfy CAU's vaccine requirement?**

- Vaccine availability is subject to change based on supply at the state and federal levels. Please note, however, that all three vaccines are effective and have been through rigorous safety protocols. We encourage you to take whichever vaccine is available to you.

**5. My child is only 17 but headed to CAU in the fall. Is a COVID-19 vaccine available to individuals under 18 years of age?**

- Yes. Currently, only the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for administering to 16 and 17 year-old individuals.

**6. Will CAU require students to provide proof they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 before attending in-person classes and/or residing in on-campus student residence halls this fall?**

- Yes. CAU has updated its immunization standards to require students who plan to take in-person classes and/or reside in on-campus student residence halls be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination in advance of arriving on campus in the fall. Public health officials consider an individual to be fully vaccinated two weeks after their final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

**7. How can I provide proof that I have been vaccinated against COVID-19?**

- You may provide proof that you have been vaccinated by accessing the [My Panther Health Portal](#) and uploading the COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card.

**8. Will students planning to enroll in fully online classes have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination?**

- No. Students who are primarily enrolled in fully online classes, including graduate students enrolled in the Online Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership, will not be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. However, students enrolled in any classes that are held on-campus will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

**9. Will there be allowable exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement?**

- Yes. Students subject to this requirement may request an exemption from the vaccination requirement for medical or religious reasons.

**10. How can I request an exemption from the requirement that I submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination?**

- Students subject to this requirement and who plan to take in-person classes and/or reside in on-campus student residence halls may request an exemption from the requirement that they submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination for medical or religious reasons. **Exemption requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis; they are NOT automatically granted.** The exemption request forms are available to enrolled students by accessing the [My Panther Health Portal](#).

Students requesting an exemption for religious reasons will be required to submit a sworn statement, signed by the student or signed by a parent or legal guardian (if the student is a minor), explaining how the requirement conflicts with the student's religious beliefs. Additional documentation, such as a letter from the student's religious leader, may also be requested. A religious exemption is not the same as a philosophical, moral, or conscientious exemption.

Students requesting an exemption for medical reasons will be required to submit a written certification from a doctor or advanced practice nurse explaining the medical contraindication and the time period for which the exemption is being requested. Medical exemptions are reviewed annually.

**11. Will I be able to register for classes for the Fall 2021 semester prior to providing the required proof of COVID-19 vaccination?**

- Yes. You will be able to register for classes prior to providing proof of vaccination, but you will have to show proof of vaccination (or receive an exemption) before coming to campus to attend in-person classes or live in one of the University's on-campus student residence halls by July 1, 2021.

**12. Will international students who plan to take in-person classes at CAU and have been vaccinated in their home countries need to be re-vaccinated with a vaccine authorized for use in the United States?**

- The University will only accept proof of COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States by the FDA and recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). We will assist international students in complying with the university's requirement, as appropriate.

**13. Will the University still require COVID testing, wearing of masks, social distancing, and temperature screening fall semester?**

- Because of ongoing uncertainty about the trajectory of COVID-19, we will defer deciding on these protocols until later in the summer. Our plans will continue to be shaped by public health guidance and the prevailing science about the effectiveness of vaccinations.