Working at Cornell

Vaccination

All individuals 12 years of age and older that reside in the United States are eligible to receive the vaccine. Visit https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/ for information on vaccine sites, appointments, and instructions.

Vaccination Mandate

As announced, President Biden’s September 9, 2021 executive order requires that all employees of certain federal contractors be vaccinated against COVID-19, unless exempt for disability/medical or religious reasons by December 8, 2021. Because of the scope of the executive order, the university is requiring all employees, whether they work on campus in Ithaca, Geneva, New York City, or any other location, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by December 8, or to have obtained a university-approved disability/medical or religious exemption.

The vaccine requirement applies to all Cornell employees who are working remotely, hybrid or fully, in any location and whether they are in a casual, temporary, regular full-time or part-time status. After December 8, anyone who fails to comply, including those only partially vaccinated or in the exemption process will be removed from Cornell’s payroll. Employees hired on a date that precludes their timely completion of the full vaccination by December 8, (e.g. just prior to, on or after December 8), may not begin employment until they provide proof of vaccination or apply and are granted an exemption.

Information about the vaccine mandate and the exemption process will be directly communicated to employees who have not provided documentation of full vaccination status in Cornell’s vaccine registry in Daily Check.

Vaccination timelines to meet the federal government’s December 8 deadline

Employees must be fully vaccinated by December 8; it is not sufficient to have started the vaccination process by that date. The full vaccination process – which begins on the date of the first dose and ends on the date an individual is considered fully vaccinated – can take as long as six (6) weeks.

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving their final dose schedule of an FDA- or WHO-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.

- Moderna vaccine:
  - first dose administered before October 27;
  - second dose completed by November 24.
- Pfizer vaccine:
  - first dose administered before November 3;
  - second dose completed by November 24.
- Johnson & Johnson vaccine:
Vaccination Clinics

Vaccination is free to all. The CDC offers a tool to search for vaccination sites near you. Local health departments and local pharmacies also provide information on vaccination sites, including the Tompkins County Health Department website. Employees in New York state may take up to four hours off from work with pay, to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Proof of Vaccination

After each dose, employees must enter that information in Cornell’s vaccine registry via the Daily Check portal.

Exemptions

The university has Procedures for Faculty and Staff to Request a Disability/Medical and/or Religious Exemption from the COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement. Under these Procedures, employees must complete and submit the online Exemption Request Form with supporting documentation. Disability/Medical exemption requests must include the Medical Certification For Exemption From the COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement.

Deadlines:

- Current employees and employees hired to start work on or before October 15, 2021, must submit their requests by October 22, 2021.
- Employees hired to start work after October 15, 2021, must submit their requests no later than five (5) business days prior to their expected start date.
- Employees who have received an offer letter and who would like to request an exemption request prior to their start date may submit the request as part of their post-offer process.

More Information

FAQs about vaccination at Cornell are available on the covid.cornell.edu website.

For more information, please access information on the New York State COVID-19 Vaccine What You Need to Know website and/or the Tompkins County Health Department website.

You may submit questions to the Cornell COVID-19 Support Team by clicking here. Direct personal health-related questions to your primary care doctor or medical provider.