



COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Requirement Frequently Asked Questions

References:

[Board Policy 2905 - SARS COV-2 \(COVID-19\) Vaccination and Testing Requirement](#)

[Administrative Procedure - 2905 2905 SARS COV-2 \(COVID-19\) Vaccination and Testing Requirement](#)

1. When does the vaccine/testing policy for spring 2022 become effective?

At the October 6, 2021, Regular Board Meeting, the Cerritos College Governing Board approved BP2905, **effective January 3, 2022**, to require proof of full vaccination against the SARS CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) for all employees, students, vendors, contractors, and visitors to help protect students and employees from exposure to COVID-19.

Unless exempt for medical or religious reasons, individuals must provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 as a condition of employment and as a condition to physically access any District facility. Those receiving exemptions will be required to undergo weekly testing for COVID-19 infection and produce proof of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Individuals who are working or attending classes at other sites (ex. off-site faculty, etc.) are required to abide by the policies at their place of work/attendance. The vaccination requirement will remain in effect until it is terminated by the Board of Trustees.

2. Do we have to wear masks indoors while on campus?

Yes. As of July 28, 2021, the State of California required masks for all individuals indoors, regardless of vaccine status. Cerritos College follows federal, state, and local recommendations. Our [Return-to-Campus \(RTC\) plan](#) states masks must be worn indoors while on District property.

3. I am unvaccinated, what do I need to do?

- If you are not vaccinated, you will be required to submit proof of a negative viral COVID-19 test on a weekly basis.
- The viral tests accepted include a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or an antigen test administered by a medical provider.
- Testing must be completed no earlier than 72 hours prior to your first arrival on campus each week.

4. **Where can I get a COVID-19 test, and how do I sign up?**

Free COVID-19 testing will be available on campus to test students, employees, and vendors. On-campus options include Pacific Toxicology Laboratories (PacTox) and Student Health Services. For detailed information on testing, how to upload your results, and other information, please visit: <http://www.cerritos.edu/covid-19/covid-19-testing.htm>.

▪ **Pacific Toxicology Laboratories (PacTox) Testing Information**

PacTox will be stationed in Lot 10 by Automotive Technology.

Testing hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

You must register with PacTox and sign up for an appointment at least two days prior to your planned appointment. Be prepared to have the following documents on hand to register:

- Valid driver's license, passport, or birth certificate, or
- Your social security number, or
- Your Cerritos College employee ID card
- If you have medical insurance, please include details during registration

Go to: <http://www.cerritos.edu/covid-19/covid-19-testing.htm>.

- **Use Entity or Organization Name:** 1938 (for students)
- **Use Entity or Organization Name:** 1937 (for employees)

▪ **Student Health Center Testing**

The Student Health Services will also be offering walk-up testing (no appointment necessary) in front of the Student Health Center on the following days:

- Tuesdays: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Thursdays: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

○ **Los Angeles County Testing Sites**

You are not required to utilize District testing sites. A testing site that is most convenient for you is acceptable if you utilize a PCR or antigen test administered by a medical provider (i.e., no at-home tests).

For testing locations in Los Angeles County, please visit: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>.

5. When do I need to get tested?

A weekly negative COVID-19 test is required for those with medical or religious exemptions. The test date must be administered no earlier than 72 hours prior to your first time on campus for the week.

Be advised, it takes between 48-60 hours after testing to receive your results. Individuals are responsible for ensuring their testing results have been received and uploaded into the OptimumHQ system prior to their first arrival on campus each week.

First day on-Campus for the week	Testing Date (no earlier than 72-hours before first day on-campus each week*)
Monday	Friday
Tuesday	Saturday
Wednesday	Sunday
Thursday	Monday
Friday	Wednesday

6. Why does the cotton swab smell during my test?

Some may notice a faint “medicinal” smell on the swabs used during testing, which is normal for sterilized medical equipment. PacTox does not add any chemicals to the swabs prior to collecting your sample.

7. How can students/employees get vaccines?

- The District encourages students and employees to get vaccinated either on campus or at sites near their homes. People aged 12+ are now eligible to receive a vaccine.
- Schedule a vaccination appointment online at <https://myturn.ca.gov/> or call 1-833-422-4255, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- The Moderna vaccine is also available through the Cerritos College Student Health Center by appointment. To schedule an appointment please call Student Health Services at (562) 860-2451 Ext. 2321 (press option 3).

8. What does “fully vaccinated” mean?

- “Fully vaccinated” against COVID-19 will be as defined by the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/).
- If you are in the process of becoming vaccinated, **you must continue to test until you are fully vaccinated:**
 - Two (2) weeks after your second dose of Moderna or Pfizer

- Two (2) weeks after your J&J/Janssen dose

9. How do I show proof of vaccination?

Students and employees will be required to upload their vaccination records through the Optimum HQ portal. Student Health Services/Human Resources staff will review and verify the information. Steps to upload your vaccine record can be found online at: <https://www.cerritos.edu/covid-19/covid-19-testing.htm>.

10. What is acceptable proof of vaccination?

According to covid19.ca.gov, the following is acceptable proof of vaccination. Your original CDC COVID-19 vaccination record, which includes:

- Name of person vaccinated
- Date of birth
- Type of vaccine provided
- Lot number
- Date last dose administered
- Site where administered
- A photo or paper copy of your CDC COVID-19 vaccination record
- A photo or your vaccination record stored on a phone or other electronic device
- Paper or digital documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or other issuer
- A Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record (DCVR)

11. Who will maintain the vaccine/testing documentation?

- Employee information will be maintained by Human Resources.
- Student information will be maintained by Student Health Services.
- Visitor/contractor information will be maintained by Student Health Services.

12. Are medical exemptions or religious exemptions allowed?

Yes, as prescribed by law.

This exemption process will not apply to non-pharmaceutical interventions or requirements such as face coverings/masks, social distancing, required weekly COVID-19 testing, etc. If implemented, the exemption process will *only* apply to any vaccination requirement.

Those receiving medical or religious exemptions will be required to undergo regular testing at least once a week for COVID-19 infection and produce proof of a negative COVID-19 test result.

If you have a question about exemption requests, please contact:

- Employees - contact Human Resources at employeeexemptions@cerritos.edu
- Students - contact Student Services at studentexemptions@cerritos.edu

13. **I am pregnant. Will I be eligible for a medical accommodation?**

- Each case is unique. We will work with each student/employee to address their concerns.
- Pregnant students requesting medical accommodation should contact pregnantseas@cerritos.edu for assistance.
- Pregnant employees requesting medical accommodation should contact HRAdministration@cerritos.edu.

14. **Will the District accept international proof of vaccines?**

Consistent with CDC and CDPH guidance, the College will accept proof of full vaccination with any international vaccine that has been authorized for emergency use by WHO through the EUL process. People who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination series with one of these vaccines do not need additional doses with a FDA-licensed or -authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

15. **I am at high risk for severe illness if I contract COVID-19 (e.g., immunocompromised). What accommodation will be made for me?**

- Students requesting a COVID-19 Vaccine Exemption are to submit their **Student Medical Exemption and/or Disability Exception Request Form** through the SAS website.
- The Dean of Student Accessibility and Wellness Services will review the exemption request. Students seeking reasonable academic adjustments to address COVID-19 related concerns will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Employees should contact Human Resources through employeeexemptions@cerritos.edu to discuss their situation and accommodations.

16. **What are the consequences of non-compliance for students and employees**

- All students are expected to follow the Standards of Student Conduct (BP 5500). Failure to adhere to Return-to-Campus guidelines may result in denial to access campus, instructor removal from class, and/or possible formal disciplinary actions that may include consequences such as formal warning, probation, interim suspension, and/or long-term suspension.

- Employees who fail or refuse to comply with the vaccination or testing requirements shall be placed on unpaid leave and disciplined for cause as set forth in Education Code Section 87732.