



Cambridge College

SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS for **MASSACHUSETTS STUDENTS***

FAQs

(updated 7/23/21)

*** THIS ONLY APPLIES TO MASSACHUSETTS STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR IN-SEAT CLASSES IN THE FALL ***

CURRENT GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDANCE ON CAMPUS DURING THE SUMMER SEMESTER HAVE NOT CHANGED

THE GUIDELINES BELOW ARE ONLY APPLICABLE TO THE FALL SEMESTER

1. Why is Cambridge College (CC) requiring that students attending in-seat classes in the Fall be fully vaccinated?

CC is requiring that all students who will be attending in-seat classes in **Massachusetts** be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Protocols for **California** and **Puerto Rico** will be issued to the respective students directly from the Regional Directors within the next coming weeks.

This requirement is being put in place to protect the health and safety of our community, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. The vaccinations have been found by the Food and Drug Administration (the FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) to be highly effective and are the best tool we have to ensure that we can open our campus safely in the Fall of 2021. For questions regarding current Summer campus protocols please check the [website](#).

There are many reasons why we think requiring vaccinations for students returning to in-seat classes on campus makes good sense for CC. They include:

- It helps prevent severe COVID-19 infection and the potential for related serious and/or long-term adverse health effects among students, faculty, and staff (as well as their family members, some of whom may not be vaccinated);
- It significantly reduces the likelihood of transmission among members of the CC community;
- It creates a safer, more secure environment for CC community members by drastically reducing the potential for COVID-19 outbreaks on campus;
- It helps to alleviate anxiety and discomfort for students, faculty, and staff who are fearful of contracting COVID-19;
- It reflects the College's support of and contribution to a larger public health endeavor with global implications; and
- It provides clear signals to prospective, new, and current students and other community members about the importance of safety and health at CC.

For information about exemptions please refer to Question #5.



2. What is the definition of “fully vaccinated”?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) all students are considered to be fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine

3. Who must be vaccinated in order to return to campus?

At this time students returning to campus in the Fall for in-seat classes **in Massachusetts** will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, except as otherwise stated in this FAQ.

4. When do I need to be vaccinated to return to campus?

All **Massachusetts students** planning to attend in-person classes must submit proof of vaccination no later than **Monday, August 23rd** to ensure access to campus on the first day of classes for the Fall semester. Access to the online Vaccination Verification Portal will be provided in an email that will be sent **ONLY** to Massachusetts students who are registered for in-person classes for the Fall semester.

If you have not already been vaccinated, in order to meet this deadline, your first dose of the vaccine (based on the type of vaccine taken) should be completed no later than:

- **JULY 23** for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (two doses, 28 days apart)
- **JULY 30** for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (two doses, 21 days apart)
- **AUGUST 20** for the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine (single dose)

The CDC advises that individuals are fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving their FINAL dose.

Vaccine Type	1st Dose	Wait Period	2nd Dose	Wait Period	Fully Vaccinated
Moderna	Jul 23	28 days	20-Aug	14 days	Sept 3
Pfizer	Jul 30	21 days	20-Aug	14 days	Sept 3
Johnson & Johnson	Aug 20	14 days	Not required	<i>Not required</i>	Sept 3

5. What if medical reasons make vaccination inadvisable, or if vaccination would violate a religious belief?

Students may seek an exemption from vaccination requirements **because of medical reasons** or for **sincerely held** religious beliefs. Students seeking an exemption will be provided parameters and instructions on how to request a waiver on the College’s Vaccination Verification Portal.

6. What happens if I choose not to be vaccinated but do not have a religious or medical exemption?

Students who choose not to be vaccinated and do not have an approved exemption may not take classes in person. These students will have the option to take remote classes (subject to the availability of sections and classes) and should contact their Academic Advisor to discuss the different types of modalities available to them.

There are many places in Massachusetts offering the COVID-19 vaccines – including local pharmacies and national pharmacy chains (e.g., CVS, Walgreens), community health centers, hospitals, and the state government. Some places require an appointment and others allow you to receive a vaccine without an appointment. You can search for vaccine availability near you by typing in your zip code at this link: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>.



7. Do I need additional vaccinations if I received my vaccinations outside of the U.S.?

Students who have completed a COVID-19 vaccination series (both doses of a 2-dose series or the single dose of a single-dose series) of a CDC or World Health Organization (WHO) authorized or approved vaccine will be able to take in-seat classes on campus.

- Students that have received all shots in a vaccination series that is **authorized by the FDA/CDC** but administered **outside of the US do not need additional vaccinations.**
- Students that have received all shots in a vaccination series **not authorized by the FDA/CDC** but **listed for emergency use by the WHO do not (at this time) need additional vaccinations.**
- Students that have started, but not completed, a vaccination series **not authorized by the FDA/CDC** are **required to complete a series in the U.S.** Vaccination locations near you can be found by typing in your zip code at: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>.
- Students that have received all shots in a vaccination series **not authorized by the FDA/CDC or the WHO** are **required to complete a series in the US.** Vaccination locations near you can be found by typing in your zip code at: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>.

8. If I am an international student and have additional questions regarding vaccinations, who do I contact?

If you are an international student and have additional questions, please contact the COVID Response Team at COVIDRC@cambridgecollege.edu.

9. What should I do if I lose my COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card?

Students registered through our Vaccination Verification Portal will be able to access a virtual copy of their uploaded COVID-19 Vaccination Record card at any time.

Students not registered in our portal have a few options, according to the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#):

- Contact your healthcare provider or the location where you were vaccinated. They can print out another copy of your record.
- You can fill out an [Immunization Record Request Form](#) that goes directly to the State Department of Public Health. If you use this form, you will get a complete history of all vaccines you have received, not just the COVID-19 vaccine, and it can take up to 6 weeks to get your record.

10. How long will it take to receive my vaccination verification card after submitting my information to the portal?

Verification cards will be mailed to students 7-10 business days after students register and submit their information on the portal. All requested mailing information – complete name and address – must be accurate to avoid any delays in receiving the card.

11. Who should I contact with any additional questions?

Please send all questions to COVIDRC@cambridgecollege.edu.

12. Who should I contact if I have any questions or issues with the Vaccination Verification Portal?

Please contact Castle Branch at 888-723-4263 or email servicedesk.cu@castlebranch.com.