Vaccination/Booster Policy

Throughout the pandemic, we have made the health and safety of our community paramount, relying on the most up-to-date medical studies and the input of our medical director at each phase of our decision making. As a result, we have had very few outbreaks over the past two years.

The most recent data from the medical establishment, informed by available studies, show that while booster shots are effective and strongly recommended to prevent serious illness and hospitalization, they appear to offer little added protection against contracting or spreading the virus once someone has received the original vaccination dose(s).

Using our dimmer switch approach, we are therefore adjusting our protocols to reflect the latest medical research. Effective immediately, the following new vaccination protocols will be in place:

1. Full vaccination against COVID-19 will still be **required of all students and employees on all campuses**.  Full vaccination is defined as 14 or more days past the first J&J vaccine dose or the second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine dose.
2. The Booster mandate will be **suspended** for:
* Undergraduate students at Stern\*, Yeshiva College and Syms
* Graduate students at Azrieli, GPATS, Revel, RIETS, Syms, and Katz whose classes are only held at the Beren and Wilf Campuses
* All Employees
1. The Booster mandate **will remain in place** for the following students who are typically expected to do fieldwork and internships that continue to have a booster requirement:
* Cardozo students
* Ferkauf students
* Katz students in allied health programs or otherwise attending classes in the Rousso Building or on Einstein’s campus
* Wurzweiler Students in on-campus programs
* \* Stern College undergraduate education majors
1. Students whose course of study is entirely web-based, a fully-online degree program, and/or fully remote, and have no physical presence on campus for any reason (including never using the library) or have no clinical training component, and do not have a YU ID, are exempt from having to be vaccinated and boosted (if applicable).
2. Exemptions still may be given on a case-by-case basis for medical or religious reasons. They are not automatically granted. Having had COVID-19 does not provide an exemption. Please contact COVID\_HR@yu.edu (employees) or VaccineExemptionRequest@yu.edu (students) for information.

While boosters are not mandated for employees and certain students listed above, the University strongly recommends that everyone receive a booster when eligible.

As always, we will continue to monitor the latest medical research very closely, adjusting our policies as needed.

July 2022