

COVID VACCINATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Frequently Asked Questions

Will international students who are vaccinated with vaccines not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) meet the requirements of the USM vaccine mandate?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [guidance](#) stating that individuals who received vaccines authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO) do not need any additional vaccination with an FDA-authorized vaccine. Therefore, all USM universities will consider any international student vaccinated with a WHO-authorized vaccine to have met the USM vaccination requirements.

What if an international student received a vaccine not authorized by the FDA or the WHO?

According to CDC guidance (as of May 2021), those who have completed or partially completed a COVID-19 vaccine series with a vaccine not authorized by the FDA or the WHO may be offered an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine series.

Therefore, international students who have gotten a vaccine not authorized by either of these organizations may be tested and quarantined for a period of time upon arrival on campus, and may be revaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine.

Administration of this vaccine should comply with all conditions of use specified under the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the vaccine being offered. The minimum interval between the last dose of a non-FDA authorized COVID vaccine and an FDA-authorized vaccine is 28 days.

What if a student cannot obtain a vaccine of any kind prior to arriving in the United States?

University-based offices of international student services will identify international students in this category and will work with university health departments and local county health officials to get them vaccinated as quickly as possible upon arrival in the country, with preference given to single-dose vaccines, if feasible.

International students unable to be vaccinated before coming to campus may be tested, vaccinated, and quarantined upon arrival, until full vaccine protection is achieved.

If some international students must wait to be fully vaccinated before they can participate in academic activities, what accommodations will be made given that they must meet specific requirements?

Each USM university will provide its international students guidance on public health measures with which they must comply until two weeks have passed since their final dose of the COVID vaccine. Universities will also provide these students support so that they're able to comply with these health measures, while still meeting their academic obligations and their visa requirements.

U.S. government policy states that students who come to the U.S. to attend a university must engage primarily in in-person instruction. What if a student's in-person attendance is delayed because of an issue related to COVID-19 vaccination?

Universities will send a letter—on university letterhead—to consular officials explaining the USM's vaccine mandate and the System's related public health measures with which international students must comply. The universities will further assist students in their interactions with consular officials as needed.