

NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY

College of Visual and Performing Arts

COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NY AND LA

The NYFA COVID-19 immunization requirements and all NYFA health and safety protocols created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted and explained in the [Response to Public Health Emergency Policy](#) and the [NYFA COVID Safety Plan](#), are subject to revision.

COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

NYFA requires all students to be [fully vaccinated and up-to-date](#) with an approved COVID-19 booster vaccine prior to being granted access to any NYFA facility (including, for NY students, access to EHS residential housing) and participating in in-person instruction and activities.

Students are required to submit their COVID-19 Vaccination Cards at least 15 days prior to Day One of Orientation Week (long-term students) or Orientation Day (short-term students). Students will be considered fully vaccinated if their second or terminal dose of a FDA or WHO authorized COVID-19 vaccine was administered at least 14 days prior to the first or singular day of Orientation. Students will be considered up-to-date, if they are booster-eligible, and the COVID-19 Vaccination Cards they submit indicate that they received the approved booster dose of vaccine.

Students who are fully vaccinated and eligible for a booster dose of vaccination are required to have received their booster dose prior to their first day of in-person classes or activities. Students who become booster-eligible while attending their programs are required to secure their booster dose of vaccine within 5 business days of becoming eligible and submit an updated COVID-19 vaccination card noting that a booster dose of vaccine was administered.

REPORTING YOUR VACCINATION BY SUBMITTING YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION CARD

New Long-Term Students, New Short-Term Students, and Students Returning from Withdrawal: Please upload a photo/copy of your COVID-19 Vaccination Card to the [Student Application Portal](#) 15 days prior to Day One of Orientation Week (long-term students and students returning from extended leave) or Orientation Day (short-term students), indicating that you are fully vaccinated and up-to-date on the recommended booster dose of vaccine.

Students Returning From Leave of Absence:

Please submit a photo/PDF/copy of your COVID-19 Vaccination Card, as soon as possible and no later than 15 days prior to program start date, indicating that you are fully vaccinated and up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccinations to your COVID-19 Team Administrator.

NY: covidteamny@nyfa.edu

LA: covidteaml@nyfa.edu

SECURING A VACCINATION AND/OR BOOSTER DOSE OF VACCINE

Vaccination is free and available in the United States for any person 5 years of age or older. Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines are free and available to any person 5 years of age or older. Please, visit www.vaccines.gov to find a vaccination site near you.

REQUESTING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT

Students may submit an application for medical exemption of the COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement. Medical Exemption Application Forms will be provided to students upon request. Students eligible for medical exemption must submit medical documentation, as directed on the Medical Exemption Form, from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant,

confirming that the COVID-19 vaccine has the potential for causing significant harm and is medically contraindicated. Medical Exemption Application Forms must be completed and submitted 30 days prior to the first day of Orientation. All medical documentation submitted will be securely filed in accordance with all relevant privacy laws.

All students granted exemptions will be required to participate in the existing NYFA health and safety protocols for unvaccinated individuals, as defined in the NYFA COVID Safety Plan. Failure to comply with the required health and safety protocols for unvaccinated students may result in revocation of the exemption and/or disciplinary action.

To contact your COVID-19 Team Administrator and request an application for medical exemption, please send an email to:

NY: covidteamny@nyfa.edu

LA: covidteaml@nyfa.edu

COVID -19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FAQs

Q: What does it mean to be fully vaccinated?

A: In accordance with public health guidelines, students will be considered fully vaccinated once they have received all needed doses of vaccines approved by the F.D. A., W. H. O., or other vaccines approved by a country's drug regulatory agency when:

Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna: Two weeks or more have passed since receiving the second dose.

Johnson & Johnson/Janssen: Two weeks or more have passed since receiving one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

Vaccines not approved in the US but approved by the W.H.O: Two or more weeks have passed since receiving the terminal dose of an approved vaccine.

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***Vaccines approved not by F. D. A and not by the W. H. O, but approved by drug regulatory agencies in countries outside the US** (upon review and approval of NYFA public health consultant): Two weeks or more have passed since receiving the terminal dose of an approved vaccine.

* Students vaccinated with vaccines not approved for emergency use by the WHO or the FDA will be permitted to enter campus but will be considered “unvaccinated” and required to follow the health and safety protocols for unvaccinated students as defined in the NYFA COVID Safety Plan.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible for a booster dose of vaccine?

A: When you become eligible for a booster dose of vaccine depends on the vaccine you received.

- Pfizer: 5 months after your second dose of vaccination
- Moderna: 5 months after your second dose of vaccination
- Johnson and Johnson: 2 months after your vaccination
- W.H.O. approved vaccine*: 5 months after your last dose of vaccination

* If you received a W.H.O. approved vaccine that has not been approved by the F.D.A. (such as Covaxin, Covishield, AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Sinovac, etc.) you are eligible to receive a dose of the Pfizer vaccine 5 months after your last dose of vaccination.

Q: What if I can't get a booster dose of vaccine in my home country or before the start of my program?

A: Boosters are free and available in the United States for individuals 5 years and older. You may schedule an appointment for a booster vaccine prior to your arrival in the US. Please, visit www.vaccines.gov to find a vaccination site or contact your campus COVID-19 Team Administrator for assistance. Bring your current COVID-19 vaccination card/document to your appointment so

that your card/document can be either updated or so that your need for a booster vaccination can be verified.

Q: When must I submit proof of my COVID-19 vaccination?

A: New students and students returning from a program withdrawal are required to submit their photos/PDFs/copies of their COVID-19 vaccination cards documenting full vaccination status (and booster dose of vaccine, if eligible) 15 days prior to Day One of Orientation Week (long-term students) or Orientation Day (short-term students). COVID-19 vaccination cards must indicate the type of vaccine administered and the dates of each administered dose.

Q: Where can I get reliable information about the vaccines- the risk of side effects and the effectiveness of each vaccine?

A: Please consult the CDC for updated and detailed information regarding [side effects](#), [vaccine effectiveness](#) and all we presently know about the vaccines and what we hope to learn from ongoing research.

To date, large scale clinical studies have conclusively determined that all of the vaccines approved for use in the United States prevent most people from developing severe illness.

Q: How much does it cost to get vaccinated and boosted?

A: COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses of vaccines are free in the US and in countries around the world.

Q: Am I exempt from the vaccine or the booster dose of the vaccine if I have previously had COVID-19 and test positive for antibodies?

A: No. In compliance with CDC guidance, NYFA will require that you get vaccinated once your isolation period has ended. It remains unclear as to how long those with prior COVID-19 illness will remain protected against new infections from existing and emerging variants.

Students may submit an application for a medical exemption from the booster requirement by completing the Medical Exemption Request Form which can be obtained upon request from the campus COVID-19 Team Administrator. Students eligible for medical exemption must submit medical documentation from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant, confirming that a booster dose of vaccine has potential for causing significant harm and is medically contraindicated.

IMPORTANT: If you received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma while treated for severe COVID-19, consult with your healthcare provider before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Q: Will students under age 18 be required to be vaccinated?

A: Yes. Since the COVID-19 vaccine is available in the US to any person 5 years of age or older, all short-term and long-term students are eligible for vaccination and will be required to be fully vaccinated and up-to-date on approved COVID-19 vaccination before attending in-person classes or activities and, for NY students only, before moving into EHS residential housing.

Q: How will the vaccination requirement affect the existing NYFA health and safety protocols?

A: With a significant majority of students/employees vaccinated against COVID-19, NYFA, and as long as community spread in the campus region is low, NYFA hopes to be able to safely relax many of the present safety protocols. To learn about our current health and safety protocols, please read the COVID Safety Plan.

NYFA's ventilation and cleaning/disinfecting protocols will remain in accordance with CDC guidelines and state and local public health department directives.

Students/employees will remain responsible for practicing good personal hygiene, staying home when sick, and getting tested for COVID-19 when experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms.

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Depending on the incidence of COVID-19 in the respective campus regions, a relaxation, for example, of physical distancing and routine testing and screening protocols is anticipated.

It will be especially important for students/employees who are immunocompromised or granted medical exemptions to observe all [CDC health and safety guidelines](#) proven effective for minimizing exposure to the virus and offering protection from contracting COVID-19.

More information on the health and safety protocols that will be required for each upcoming semester will be communicated to the community as a new semester approaches and NYFA receives clear directives from local and state public health departments.

Q: Will there be a virtual option for students who do not wish to be vaccinated?

A: Unfortunately, NYFA campuses are presently offering full time in-person instruction. Attending classes remotely is not an option.

Q: What are my options as a student if I do not qualify for a medical exemption and I do not want to get vaccinated?

A: Students who qualify for medical exemptions will be advised on how to maintain safety, on campus and off-campus, and when participating in in-person classes and activities. Unfortunately there are no additional options for entry to the New York Film Academy or participation in NYFA classes and activities other than those outlined in our existing policies for each campus.

QUESTIONS AND SUPPORT?

For questions and support please reach out to your campus COVID-19 Administrators:

NY: covidteamny@nyfa.edu

LA: covidteaml@nyfa.edu