



## CMS Vaccine Mandate for students

**Purpose:** Compliance with CMS Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate for all "Staff" at Medicare- and Medicaid-certified facilities, including some of Kansas Wesleyan University's clinical partners. The CMS rule defines "Staff" to include students and trainees.

### A. Vaccination deadlines and proof of vaccine

Nursing students must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by January 7, 2021 with a copy of the vaccination card or other acceptable proof of vaccination provided to the Nursing office by January 7.

Students must receive their first dose of a two-dose Covid-19 vaccine no later than November 26, 2021 with the second dose no later than December 24, 2021.

If choosing the single dose Covid-19 vaccine, it must be received no later than December 24, 2021.

Any student who receives a third dose or booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine should provide proof of such booster to the Nursing office within a reasonable time after receiving same (normally one week).

### B. Policy for Exemption requests

1. Students may request an exemption from a vaccine that is mandated by a clinical partner for medical or religious reasons if permitted by the clinical partner.
2. Students will complete the appropriate exemption request form (either medical or religious).
3. If a student is requesting an exemption for more than one type of vaccine (other than Covid 19), a separate vaccine exemption request form must be completed for each vaccine.
4. Medical exemptions must include documentation from a licensed health care provider (MD, DO, APRN, or PA) and must include documentation of recognized clinical contraindications to COVID-19 vaccines and must address the recognized clinical reasons for the contraindication.
5. Previous Covid-19 infection does NOT qualify as an exemption from vaccination requirements.
6. The completed documentation requesting an exemption will be submitted to the Director of Nursing no later than **5pm on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021** for Spring 2022 exemptions.
7. This exemption request will then be sent to the *Vaccine Exemption Request Committee*, which is comprised of three members of the KWU faculty and staff. Nursing faculty and staff members will not serve on this committee.
8. The committee will review the request and may request an interview or additional documentation.
9. The committee will have up to seven business days from the time the request was submitted to the Director of the Nursing to decide if the exemption request is approved or denied. An extension of this time period may be warranted if additional documentation or an interview is requested.
10. While all exemption requests will be carefully reviewed, approval is not guaranteed.

11. Clinical partners may require their own vaccine exemption process. Approval of vaccine exemption from KWU does not guarantee approval for exemptions from specific clinical partners.
12. Students who are approved for the vaccine exemption must comply with the requirements of the clinical partner. This may include regular COVID testing at the student's own expense. The nursing department is not responsible for arranging, administering or interpreting any screening or diagnostic tests. Failure to comply with the requirements of the clinical partner will result in the inability to attend clinical. Please refer to KWU Department of Nursing attendance policy for details on clinical attendance requirements.
13. Exemptions are valid for the current academic year. Students may reapply each academic year as desired.

### **C. Procedures for Exempted Students**

Students who have a medical or religious exemption, approved by the Kansas Wesleyan University vaccine exemption committee, will follow additional health and safety precautions as an accommodation beginning on January 10, 2021. The following requirements are not exhaustive and clinical partners may have their own requirements and additional precautions for unvaccinated staff to follow.

1. Must wear a surgical mask at all times while at clinical except on meal break.
2. Must have a record of weekly testing for COVID-19.
3. Weekly COVID-19 testing results must be submitted by Mondays at noon starting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
4. COVID-19 testing must be a PCR test completed at a health care facility, such as a health center, clinic, health department, or pharmacy.
  - a. No antibody tests will be accepted.
  - b. No home COVID-19 tests will be accepted.
5. Students are responsible for any expenses related to COVID-19 weekly testing.
6. The nursing department will not arrange, administer, or interpret any COVID-19 testing.
7. Students must provide the official lab report results to Microsoft Teams. An individualized and confidential folder will be accessible to submit weekly COVID-19 lab results.

Lab report documentation must include:

- a. Student's Name
  - b. DOB
  - c. Date of test
  - d. Name of facility that provided test results of COVID-19 PCR test
  - e. COVID-19 test results
  - f. Type of test performed
8. Students may not attend clinical if they have a positive COVID-19 test result. Students with a positive COVID-19 test result will follow the KWU reporting requirements and follow recommendations of the local health department for isolation and return to class and clinical.

9. Students may not attend clinical if they do not have the required COVID-19 weekly test results. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that records are obtained and uploaded by 12:00pm on Monday of each week. There will be no make-up clinical if a student does not provide the required documentation and misses clinical. The student will receive a missed clinical day and be subject to the clinical attendance policy (see KWU Nursing Student Handbook).
10. This policy is subject to change, at any time, if the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), KDHE, or clinical partner recommendations are updated. Students, the clinical instructor and the administrative assistant will be notified of changes by email.
11. This COVID testing policy is only valid for the clinical sites that designate Kansas Wesleyan University to determine exemption status. Other clinical sites that grant exemptions may have a different testing policy that students in this setting must follow.