

**UTHSC COM COVID-19 Vaccination, Quarantine, and PPE Guide for M1 and M2 Students –  
8.21.2022**

**Vaccination, Testing, and PPE Rules:**

- a) Vaccination definitions:
  - a. Fully vaccinated = 2 weeks after the second dose of a 2-dose series vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna) or 2 weeks after a 1-dose series vaccine (Johnson & Johnson)
  - b. Boosted/Up-to-Date = right after getting a booster dose (Pfizer, Moderna)
  - c. Under-vaccinated = only 1 of a 2-dose series has been received or within 2 weeks of receiving the second dose of a 2-dose series or within 2 weeks of receiving a 1-dose series vaccine.
  - d. Unvaccinated = No doses of vaccine have been received
  
- b) Vaccination against COVID-19 is strongly encouraged for all medical students.
  - a. All students are requested to log their vaccination status in Qualified First (Verified Credentials):
    - i. Website: <http://scholar.verifiedcredentials.com/uthsc>
    - ii. Code: GGRXJ-47969
  - b. UTHSC collects this information for purposes of qualification to participate in hospital/clinical site training per the site's requirements. UTHSC does not mandate vaccination or reporting COVID-19 status. However, failure to provide this information will result in the hospital/clinical site's excluding you from training.
  
- c) Hospital vaccination requirements:
  - a. All UTHSC employees, trainees, and students are obligated to follow the rules and guidelines of partner hospitals and practice plan clinics when in their facilities for work or clinical training.
  - b. Under CMS rules, all hospital staff must receive the initial vaccine dose (whether Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson) on or before January 27, 2022, and be fully vaccinated by February 28, 2022, unless an exemption or temporary deferral applies in accordance with federal law.
  - c. Students who participate in clinical training as part of their academic program are required to upload their proof of COVID-19 immunization to [Verified Credentials](#) as noted above. This is a requirement of the clinical training site.
  - d. Some of the hospital systems (VA and Regional One Health) have announced that they will accept requests for religious or medical accommodations. The hospital or clinic operator has the ultimate discretion to grant or deny such a request, as well as grant or deny access to its facilities. UTHSC is not in the position to review or grant any religious or medical exemption requests because we are not mandating vaccination. It is the responsibility of the student to seek out these exemptions in a timely manner.
  - e. Non-Compliance with Hospital/Clinical Site Policy: If you do not comply with a hospital/clinical site immunization requirement, you will put yourself at risk of not

meeting academic requirements. Remember that although the university is not mandating that you be vaccinated, it is your responsibility to show up for clinical training. For trainees/students, exclusion from the hospital/clinical site will result in denial of academic credit for those missed courses or rotations. Further, if your ability to progress is impaired your continued enrollment would be subject to review and potential withdrawal.

- d) PPE rules:
- a. UTHSC is not currently under a mask mandate, however, the University strongly encourages everyone to wear a mask indoors while on campus to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
  - b. Students are obligated to follow the masking rules and guidelines of partner hospitals and practice plan clinics when in their facilities for work or clinical training.

### **Exposure and Symptomatic Person Rules:**

1. Definition of an exposure.
  - a. Contact with someone infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in a way that increases the likelihood of getting infected with the virus.
  - b. A close contact is someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes. People who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 after they completed at least 5 days of isolation are not considered close contacts.
  
2. What to do if exposed:

#### **If you were exposed to COVID-19 and are NOT up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations**

- **Isolate:** Stay home and isolate for at least 5 full days. Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.
- **Calculating Quarantine:** The date you first experience symptoms considered Day 0. Day 1 is the first full day after experiencing symptoms.
- **Get tested:** Test on day 5 if possible.
- **After quarantine:** Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- **If you develop symptoms** Stay home and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.

#### **If you were exposed to COVID-19 and are up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations**

- **No quarantine:** You do not need to stay home **unless** you develop symptoms.
- **Get tested:** Test on day 5 if possible.

- **Watch for symptoms:** Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- **If you develop symptoms** Isolate immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results. Wear a well-fitted mask around others.

For all, please notify your academic deans, course director, and student/occupational health if you have been exposed.

Make-up time for exposed M1/M2 students—It will be at the discretion of the course director to determine the appropriate make-up requirements/days in order to meet the goals and objectives of the course and obtain fair and accurate evaluations.

3. What to do if you think you may have COVID or COVID-like symptoms. Where can I get tested?

- a. Notify your course director and corresponding Sr/Assistant Dean immediately.
- b. Begin isolation.
- c. Get tested using an at home antigen test kit, or at either UHS or one of the community sites here: <https://covid19.memphistn.gov/resources/covid-19-testing-sites-in-shelby-county/>
- d. Notify your course director of your test results when they are available so that you can restart your course.

4. How to prevent getting exposed

- a. Always wear a face mask in all laboratory and simulation settings.
- b. Maintain social distancing on campus where possible AND when eating.
- c. Consider maintaining social distancing and wearing a mask (not necessary if everyone is vaccinated) at home if you live with other healthcare workers or health professions students.
- d. Get vaccinated!

5. What to do if you test positive for COVID-19:

**If you tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status**

- **Stay home for at least 5 days:** Stay home for 5 days and isolate from others in your home. Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.
- **Calculating Quarantine:** Day 0 is your first day of symptoms regardless of when you tested positive. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed.
- **Ending isolation if you had symptoms:** End isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.
- **Ending isolation if you did NOT have symptoms:** End isolation after at least 5 full days after your positive test.
- **Wear a mask:** Continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.

Vaccination questions:

1. When and how can I get my COVID-19 vaccine?
  - a. Adults and children  $\geq$  5 years old are eligible for vaccination.

- b. Vaccination is strongly encouraged by UTHSC and may become required for clinical training sites.
  - c. Please visit the Shelby County Health Department website (<https://covid19.memphistn.gov/>) for a list of locations for first and second vaccinations.
2. When and where should I receive my second dose of the vaccine?
- a. For the Pfizer vaccine, the recommended timing of your second dose is 21 days after the first dose with an acceptable range of 17-23 days. For the Moderna vaccine, the recommended timing of your second dose is 28 days.
  - b. If your second dose is not available at the recommended timeframe, you should still receive your second dose AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU even if this is after the recommended timeframe.
3. When and where should I receive my booster dose?
- a. For the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the recommended timing of your booster dose is at least 5 months after the last dose in the primary series. For the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the recommended timing of the booster is at least 2 months after the first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine