



Campus Safety
office of auxiliary operations

Dear SCU Community,

Yesterday, August 5, the California State Department of Public Health issued a [subsequent order](#) requiring all healthcare workers, including clinical students involved with and/or observing patient care, to become fully vaccinated by September 30, 2021. The order provided two scenarios by which workers may be exempt from the vaccination requirements. The July 26 health order requiring healthcare workers who are not fully vaccinated to undergo weekly COVID-19 testing remains and will take effect August 23.

Neither of these orders apply to pre-clinical students, pre-clinical faculty, or anyone else not involved in patient care.

To help navigate this complex issue, in addition to the explanation below, the University will also be hosting a Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, August 11th at noon.

SCU is required to comply with the legally binding 8/5/2021 order as follows:

1. Clinical students and employees who are fully or partially vaccinated should update their vaccination status in Smartabase as soon as possible and no later than 8/11/2021. Contact Synoptek Support [<customersupport@synoptek.com>](mailto:customersupport@synoptek.com) for any Smartabase issues.
 - a. If you are not yet vaccinated, but become vaccinated in the future, update your vaccination status in Smartabase. You will be subject to the testing protocol until you are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the second shot for Moderna and Pfizer, 2 weeks after the first shot for Johnson & Johnson).
 - b. If you are planning to become fully vaccinated before 9/30/2021, the latest date to have the first shot is as follows depending on which vaccine you choose to receive:
 - i.Moderna: August 19
 - ii.Pfizer: August 26

iii. Johnson & Johnson: September 16

2. Clinical students and employees who are exempt from vaccination should indicate their exemption in Smartabase as soon as possible and no later than 8/11/2021. Contact Synoptek Support customersupport@synoptek.com for any Smartabase issues. Healthcare workers at SCU owned and operated facilities are exempt from the vaccination requirement upon providing a signed declination form (attached) stating either of the following: (1) the worker is declining vaccination based on Religious Beliefs, or (2) the worker is excused from receiving any COVID-19 vaccine due to Qualifying Medical Reasons.

a. To be eligible for a Qualified Medical Reasons exemption the worker must also provide to SCU a written statement signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, or other licensed medical professional practicing under the license of a physician stating that the individual qualifies for the exemption (but the statement should not describe the underlying medical condition or disability) and indicating the probable duration of the worker's inability to receive the vaccine (or if the duration is unknown or permanent, so indicate).

b. Additionally, anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days and is not yet fully vaccinated is exempt from weekly testing and not eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine until 90 days after the original diagnosis. Workers falling into this category should indicate such in Smartabase.

c. Please note that while SCU allows vaccine exemptions, non-SCU owned and operated healthcare facilities where SCU students rotate may not allow vaccine exemptions, and unvaccinated students may not be eligible for such rotations.

3. Due to uncertainty about the ongoing availability and pricing of COVID-19 tests, SCU's initial weekly testing plan shared on 8/4/2021 and below may change in the future, but as of now, remains in place:

a. Tests will be conducted at the tent in SCU Lot 1 by SCU Health personnel. An alternate inclement weather location will be designated and announced as well.

b. Rapid tests using nasal swabs with results in 15 minutes will be utilized. People reporting for tests will wait until their result is read. If positive, Smartabase must be utilized to report the result, and the person must return home immediately to begin self-isolation. The COVID Containment and Exposure Management team will initiate contact tracing based on the Smartabase positive test alert.

- c. SCU will utilize government grant funds to cover the cost of testing through the fall term.
- d. Students and employees who need to undergo weekly testing will receive a link to sign up for the day of week and time of their choice.

To date, SCU has not had any confirmed on-campus transmission of COVID-19 disease. Through the fall term and possibly beyond, we will continue to utilize our existing COVID-19 health protocols including indoor masking, fixed small lab groups, and Zoom lectures in addition to the plan above to comply with the California Health Officer Order.

After reviewing the resources above, if you have any questions or concerns specific to SCU, please contact either melissanagare@scuhs.edu or josepheggleston@scuhs.edu.