Fall 2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement - FAQs

Why is Emory University requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for all students beginning in fall semester 2021?
Emory requires that all students be vaccinated against certain diseases, subject to exemptions for medical contraindications or strong personal objections. As there are readily available, safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19, Emory has added the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of already required vaccines for students. Students can register for a vaccine appointment here.

How did Emory University arrive at this decision?
The decision to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of required immunization was the result of extensive consultation with public health experts, vaccine scientists, student health leaders and others, and reflects our best judgment as to how to protect the Emory community.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine be required for staff and faculty?
At this time, Emory is not requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for staff and faculty. Nevertheless, we strongly recommend that all Emory staff and faculty get vaccinated for COVID-19, and can register for a vaccine appointment here.

Why is Emory requiring a COVID-19 vaccine for students but not staff and faculty?
The Emory on-campus student experience includes shared or congregate housing, dining and student activities that can increase spread of communicable diseases. For this reason, Emory, like other institutions, requires all students be vaccinated against certain diseases, subject to exemptions for medical contraindications or strong personal objections. As there are readily available, safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19, Emory has added the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of already required vaccines.

Why are we requiring COVID-19 vaccines at this time under an EUA status?
Thorough scientific studies have shown the vaccines are safe and highly effective at protecting against COVID-19. Emory policy allows for students with a medical contraindication or strong personal objection to seek an exemption to the vaccine requirement.

Will international vaccines comply with Emory’s requirement?
Emory university is working with public health experts, vaccine scientists, and student health leaders to help answer this question. As further guidance emerges, we will share details with international students and update the Student Health Services webpage.

Will Emory University provide vaccines to students arriving in the fall?
Yes, Emory is committed to providing access to COVID-19 vaccinations for all students, faculty, and staff members. Specific to the fall semester, the Student Health Services webpage will be updated in the future with fall vaccine distribution details. This information also will be shared directly with all students.

Will a flu vaccination be required during the 2021-2022 academic year?
Emory will continue to consider other health and safety measures that may be applied in the future. At this time, a decision has not been made on if a flu vaccination will also be required during 2021-2022.