



ELMIRA COLLEGE

Coronavirus FAQ's for Students and Families

(As of 8/12/22. This document will be updated as needed.)

Please submit COVID-19 questions to covid19@elmira.edu.

1. Why are vaccinations required?

We strongly believe in the benefits of a robust on-campus, interactive, and in-person educational setting. Part of the college experience is in the social bonds you create with people who will become your lifelong friends. Vaccinations are the safest way to achieve this goal as they not only ensure your safety but they help to ensure the safety of others, particularly those who are immunocompromised.

2. Do I have to be fully vaccinated prior to arriving at the College?

All residential and commuter students must be fully vaccinated before arriving on campus for the Fall 2022 Term. Boosters are strongly recommended.

A reminder that you are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. According to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), while the definition of fully vaccinated does not include a booster, people are best protected when they have received all doses in the primary series and all recommended boosters.

3. Where/How do I go to get vaccinated?

You can choose where to get vaccinated. You can find off-campus COVID-19 Vaccine clinics using the links provided on [MyEC](#) or the CDC's [Vaccine Finder](#).

4. How do I know if the vaccines are safe and effective?

There is a lot of misinformation circling and we understand if you are unsure about the safety and effectiveness of getting the vaccine. However, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has rigorous scientific standards. Ongoing research continues to support the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use by the FDA. We encourage you to review the information provided by the [FDA](#) as well as additional information available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

For anyone who has specific questions about their health and safety, we recommend you speak directly with your personal medical provider(s).

5. Are there medical or religious exemptions for getting the vaccine? If so, what is the process for getting an exemption?

Yes, medical and religious exemptions may be provided. Students must apply for an exemption using the appropriate form, which are available on [MyEC](#). Exemptions forms will be reviewed by

the Clarke Health Center and the Dean of Students and granted on a case-by-case basis. The CHC will notify students directly and this information will be kept strictly confidential.

6. What if I refuse to comply with the vaccination requirement?

We want to work with students to ensure they are on a path to getting fully vaccinated and will work with everyone as best we can on a case-by-case basis. However, students who are not eligible for a medical/religious exemption and who refuse to become fully vaccinated will be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and will face sanctions that may include suspension.

7. Do I still need to provide any proof of status prior to arrival on campus?

No. The CDC is no longer recommending screening testing of asymptomatic people without known exposures in most community settings. Based on this guidance just released from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is not required that you be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus for Term I. If you are living on campus, you are encouraged to take a home test before moving back.

8. Which vaccines are accepted?

Acceptable vaccines include those approved for use in the U.S.:

- J&J/Janssen
- Moderna
- Pfizer

For international students, we will also review, on an individual basis, additional vaccines.

9. Are there testing requirements?

Vaccinated and unvaccinated students may be subject to random COVID testing to ensure the safety of everyone.

10. Will the College provide a space to quarantine and isolate, if necessary?

Yes, there is designated quarantine and isolation space, if needed, for the 2022-2023 academic year. Per Chemung County Health Department, anyone who needs to quarantine or isolate must remain in place and cannot leave the county in order to prevent the further spread of the virus.

11. Are faculty and staff required to be vaccinated?

Yes. Employees are also required to be fully vaccinated. Boosters are strongly recommended as soon as an individual is eligible.

12. Can I wear a mask even if I am vaccinated?

Of course. We want everyone to feel safe AND accepted. So, whatever your reasons (because you feel safer or because you don't want others to feel singled out) anyone is welcome to wear a mask.