



COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FAQ

Last updated 9/1/21

Does everyone on campus need to wear a mask indoors?

Yes, according to a statewide mask order, masks are required for everyone who is in an indoor public space, regardless of vaccination status. For employees, there are limited exceptions when face coverings aren't required:

- When the employee is vaccinated and in an office space that is not easily accessible to the public.
- When an employee — vaccinated or unvaccinated — is working alone indoors or in a vehicle with no interactions with others and no expectation of in-person interruptions.

Who is required to be vaccinated on campus, and how do they report their vaccination status?

Students

Bates Technical College has made the decision that the college will require students to be vaccinated or declare a medical or religious exemption. Governor Inslee's higher education proclamation spells out rules for colleges that choose to require students to be vaccinated, and those that do not.

Details:

Students who come to campus for in-person classes or services (including Technical High School/Running Start students) must be fully vaccinated or have a medical or religious exemption from the college. Medical and religious exemptions are granted on a case-by-case basis by the college. Philosophical exemptions are not allowed.

Students are expected to be fully vaccinated (or declare a medical or religious exemption) before coming to campus, starting fall quarter on September 27, 2021.

Central/Mohler Campus: 2320 S. 19th St., Tacoma WA 98405 - 253.680.7603

Downtown Campus: 1101 S. Yakima Ave., Tacoma WA 98405 - 253.680.7000

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Employees

According to the vaccination proclamation, all state employees must be vaccinated, or have a medical or religious exemption, by Oct. 18. (Philosophical exemptions are not allowed.) This requirement applies even if the employee is working entirely online. See chart below.

Vaccine	Series Dose Requirement	First Dose No Later Than	Second Dose	Completed Series	Fully Vaccinated
Pfizer	2 doses, 21 days apart	09/13/21	10/04/21	10/04/21	10/18/21
Moderna	2 doses, 28 days apart	09/06/21	10/04/21	10/04/21	10/18/21
Johnson & Johnson	Single dose	10/04/21	N/A	10/04/21	10/18/21

The vaccination requirement applies to all cabinet-level state agencies, as well as employees in K-12 and higher education, and in health care settings. The vaccination requirement also applies to:

- Student workers
- College boards of trustees, who are considered workers under the proclamation.
- Health care students who have clinical rotations must follow the vaccination requirements of the health care institution where they will be working – i.e., they must be fully vaccinated or have an exemption before their clinical experience.

According to the vaccination proclamation, proof of full vaccination for employees can be in the form of:

- A CDC Covid-19 vaccination card or photo of the card.
- Documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or electronic health record.
- State immunization information record.

Employees vaccinated outside the U.S. may show a reasonable equivalent of these documents.

Attestations alone do not qualify as evidence of vaccination for employees (unlike for students).

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Visitors and volunteers

For visitors and volunteers, the vaccination requirements at Bates Technical College are:

- Volunteers must be vaccinated or have an exemption, but only if they are coming to campus (per the vaccination proclamation).
- Visitors don't have to be vaccinated (per the higher education proclamation and the vaccination proclamation).

Contractors

The vaccination proclamation requires contractors to be vaccinated under certain circumstances.

The proclamation gives agencies/colleges the option of having the contractor verify vaccination or doing it themselves. If the contractor does the verification, it must do so in a method similar to how the colleges would do it for their own employees. The contractor can't allow self-attestation, and they must have some process in place for medical/religious exemptions.

[When do employees have to get their vaccine doses in order to comply with the Oct. 18 deadline?](#)

All employees must be fully vaccinated or have an exemption by Oct. 18, 2021. The following chart by the state Department of Health shows when employees have to get their vaccine doses to meet the Oct. 18 deadline.

[What other health and safety protocols must colleges follow, beyond masking and vaccinations?](#)

In addition to the masking, vaccination and documentation requirements listed above, colleges must follow other health and safety protocols found in the higher ed proclamation. The proclamation makes a distinction between campuses that require vaccination and those that do not.

Campuses that require vaccination as a condition of learning and working on campus are exempt from most of the proclamation's mandates. Instead, they may voluntarily follow guidance published by the state Department of Health.

[What are some of the best practices recommended by the CDC and state Department of Health — as referenced in the higher education proclamation?](#)

The CDC and Department of Health recommend physical distancing, masking, handwashing, cleaning, health screening and adherence to isolation and quarantine protocols. Both agencies also recommend colleges:

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- Promote vaccinations — Offer and promote COVID-19 vaccination by providing on-site clinics, using trusted messengers (including students, faculty and staff), and facilitating off-site vaccination services in the community.
- Conduct contact tracing — When a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 is identified, notify your local health department and everyone who has been in close contact with the individual. Close contact is defined as someone who has been within 6 feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Improve ventilation — Improve building ventilation by, for example, introducing and circulating outdoor air, ensuring ventilation systems are operating properly, and increasing filtration.

What rules should we follow for college activities that have parallel functions out in the community?

For activities that have parallel functions out in the general community — personal services, fitness centers, libraries, performing arts, venues and culinary-program restaurants, for example — our colleges have always followed the Healthy Washington protocols rather than the higher education proclamation.

The Healthy Washington requirements went away on June 30, along with many restrictive protocols. That said, Bates Technical College will encourage, whenever possible, 3-foot physical distancing even if distancing restrictions have been lifted at counterpart services/functions out in the local community.

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