



WESTERN NEW ENGLAND
UNIVERSITY

COVID-19 Booster Policy

Date: 12/21/2021

Background

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a COVID-19 vaccine booster for all individuals 18 years and older.

COVID-19 vaccines are very effective at lowering the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. The CDC has found that vaccine protection may wear off over time. Boosters keep the vaccines effective for a longer period.

The booster should be administered six months after one's second Pfizer or Moderna shot, or two months after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson. For more information, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

COVID-19 Vaccine Type	Timeframe to Receive a Booster after Completing the Primary Vaccine Series
Pfizer and Moderna	6 Months
Johnson & Johnson	2 Months

WNE Policy

WNE's guiding principles throughout the pandemic has been to maintain the health and safety of the entire Golden Bear Community. Given the CDC's recommendation, **all faculty, staff, or students who intend to live, learn, conduct research, or access any campus resources are required to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot, when eligible.**

WNE recognizes that individuals completed their primary series at different points in time, therefore, the eligibility timeframe for booster shots will differ for everyone. **No student, faculty, or staff will be denied access to campus at the start of the spring semester.**

The university will track booster compliance and reach out to faculty, staff, or students who are non-compliant and work with them to meet the COVID-19 booster requirement.

Students who remain out of compliance may have a hold placed on their account, which will prohibit them from registering for courses for the fall 2022 semester and could lead to disciplinary sanctions, including possible withdrawal from the university.



Faculty and staff who do not comply with the booster policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Exemptions-Booster Shot

Faculty, staff, or students who received a medical or religious exemption from the initial WNE COVID-19 vaccination requirement, will be automatically exempted from the booster shot requirement.

Faculty, staff, or students who have a **medically valid reason** for not receiving a booster shot may request a **medical exemption** from the booster requirement. This can be accomplished by completing a [WNE Booster Exemption Request Form](#). Documentation from a medical provider must be submitted along with the completed Booster Exemption Request Form. Medical documentation must clearly state the medical reason for the exemption request. All documentation should be sent to healthservices@wne.edu.

Submission of Updated Vaccination Card/Information

Faculty, staff, or students who receive their booster at WNE do not need to upload an updated vaccination card, as the university has their updated documentation on file.

If a booster is administered off-site, an updated vaccine card must be uploaded to covidvac@wne.edu.

Finding a Booster Clinic

Community members can make an appointment to get a vaccine booster by identifying a location through the [Massachusetts COVID-19 vaccine finder](#).

Appointments will also be available at WNE every Friday during our Booster Clinics throughout the Spring Semester. The Schedule of WNE Booster Clinics can be found here: [insert link once finalized].

Students returning for Spring 2022 can also fulfill the booster requirement by getting the shot in another state or country. The [Vaccines.gov](#) website can be used to identify vaccination locations outside Massachusetts.