

COVID-19 Student Groups for October 4th Vaccine Reporting or Weekly Testing FAQ 10/1/21

Minnesota State System Student Requirement for Proof of Vaccine or Weekly Testing

On August 18, 2021, Minnesota State System Chancellor Devinder Malhotra announced Student COVID-19 vaccination guidelines to go in effect on October 4, 2021. From his memo:

Minnesota State will not mandate proof of COVID-19 vaccination or require COVID-19 testing for all students. However, our colleges and universities will require vaccination attestation for specific student groups or populations that are in settings where there is close and frequent contact with others. Students in the groups below who choose not to provide attestation will need to undergo a COVID test at least once a week.

What are the requirements of the student COVID-19 proof of vaccination and testing guidelines?

Minnesota State students are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination status or participate in weekly testing for COVID-19 if they:

- Live in a residence hall owned by a college or university, or by the college or university's foundation
- Participate in athletic programs
- Are subject to requirements of a clinical or experiential learning site with its own vaccination and/or testing requirements, which may differ from Minnesota State guidance or
- Participate in other extra-curricular student groups identified for inclusion in these guidelines
- Are a student worker, graduate student, on a work study assignment, receive a stipend, and other student employees

Are student employees subject to MMB policy #1446 "COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination and Testing"?

Yes, student workers, those on work study assignments, graduate assistants, and other student employees are subject to the same proof of vaccination or testing requirements as employees. Student workers are covered under the MMB policy consistent with [Minn. Stat. 43A.08](#). Also, doing so is consistent with how student workers are included under broad state mandates such as the wage notice law and unemployment insurance. This includes students who are paid stipends for campus leadership roles, serving in student government, etc. Additional information on the MMB policy is available on the [HR Connect site](#).

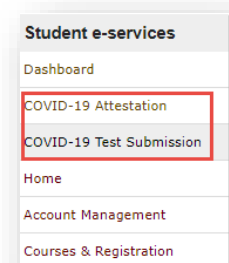
Which Minnesota State Mankato student groups are included in the COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination and Testing?

The following student groups must provide the COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination or participate in weekly testing:

- Students living in campus owned or managed housing.
- Students who perform in choral ensembles, instrumental ensembles, dance, and theater productions.
- Students who perform in indoor intramural sports and Club Sports.
- Student employees and students who are paid stipends for campus leadership roles.
- Students who are subject to requirements of a clinical or experiential learning site with its own vaccination and/or testing requirements, which may differ from Minnesota State guidance.

How do I provide COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination or attest for weekly testing if I live in campus housing, participate in select campus or clinical activities, or intramural sports?

You will be notified if you need to provide When a student logs into eServices, new menu options will appear on the left side navigation panel.



Selecting *COVID-19 Attestation* will display information about collecting private data.

COVID-19 Vaccine Attestation

College and University Notice of Intent to Collect Private Data: COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS

The Minnesota State System, the network of colleges and universities to which your college or university belongs, has issued [guidelines](#) that requires students living in residence halls, students engaged in athletics, and students involved in certain campus activities to confirm they are fully vaccinated or submit to weekly testing for COVID-19 at the college or university's expense.

If you have questions about the selected campus activities that require proof of vaccination or weekly testing, please visit your [college or university COVID-19 webpage](#).

The Minnesota State System is requesting you to identify your COVID-19 vaccination status. You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination series approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") or the World Health Organization ("WHO"); or two weeks after a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine approved by the FDA or the WHO.

If you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the Minnesota State System is requesting you to present your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or, if vaccinated in another country, then an alternative official vaccination record, as proof of your FDA or WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccination status. This information will be used to confirm whether you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and whether you may be exempted from mandatory COVID-19 testing.

You are not legally required to provide the requested data. If you do not show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 and fail to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing as required by the [Minnesota State Guidelines](#), your ability to continue living in college or university residence halls, your participation in athletics, and/or your participation in selected college or university activities may be impacted.

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act classifies your vaccination status as private data about you. The data collected from you may be shared with your college or university staff, your college or university's safety administrators, members of your college or university's staff with a business need to know, and other persons or entities authorized by law.

Vaccine Attestation:

By checking here, I certify that I have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. "Fully vaccinated" means that it has been at least two weeks since I have received both doses of a two-dose vaccine series or a single dose of a one-dose vaccine approved by the FDA or WHO.

By checking here, I am declining to certify that I have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. I understand that I may later submit proof of full vaccination to the Minnesota State System if I become fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or decide to submit proof of full vaccination to the Minnesota State System.

Students may initially select they certify to being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or decline to certify they are fully vaccinated which would mean students would need to submit weekly test results.

After selecting the appropriate option, clicking the save and continue button will then ask the student for consent to share their private information.

COVID-19 Testing Consent Form

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge to our State. The virus is highly contagious, including among asymptomatic people, and potentially deadly. As of September 22, 2021, over 8,000 of our family members, friends, and neighbors in Minnesota have perished from COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health, the best way to prevent infection and from spreading the disease is by being vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines have proven themselves to be safe and effective. Staff, faculty and students who access campus facilities without vaccination pose a particular risk of COVID-19 exposure to themselves and their colleagues. Additionally, ongoing community transmission of the more transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19 in Minnesota, especially among unvaccinated individuals, presents a continuous risk of infection.

The Minnesota State System strongly encourages students to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Students who are living in residence halls, students engaged in athletics, and students involved in select campus activities must confirm they are fully vaccinated or submit to weekly testing for COVID-19 at the college or university's expense.

Weekly testing students for COVID-19 is a critical tool for minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19 and enabling an early response to prevent transmission of the virus.

As part of this weekly testing, students who do not submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination will have their information and specimen collected to provide a COVID-19 test result. The COVID-19 test sample and other information collected during the COVID-19 test is classified as private data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The data from weekly testing helps us to determine whether you have COVID-19 and how the college and university may best support the health and safety of all students and members of the campus community.

Students have the right to decline to take a COVID-19 test and are not legally required to provide the requested data. However, if a student has not submitted proof of full vaccination and declines to take a COVID-19 test or does not provide the requested information to conduct a COVID-19 test, a student's ability to continue living in college or university residence halls, participate in athletics, and/or participate in selected college or university activities may be impacted.

Testing information may be shared with the designated testing laboratory, the designated vendor, the Minnesota Department of Health, local public health, college or university student affairs and residence life staff, college or university safety administrators, members of the college or university's staff with a business need to know, and others authorized by law.

Access to this private information will be limited to those authorized by law. *

- I have read and agree to the terms set forth in this COVID-19 Testing Consent form and the Minnesota State System guidelines.
- I have been advised that I have the right to refuse to submit to COVID-19 testing.
- I consent to submit to COVID-19 testing.
- My data, including my information and my specimen, may be collected, shared, used, and retained by the Minnesota State System as detailed in the Minnesota State System guidelines, and as authorized by law.
- My consent will be in effect for the duration of the COVID-19 testing requirement under the Minnesota State System guidelines, or until I rescind my consent in writing.
- I understand that if I become fully vaccinated against COVID-19, submit a new COVID-19 vaccination attestation form, and submit proof to the Minnesota State System that I am fully vaccinated against COVID-19, I will be removed from the COVID-19 testing requirement.

By selecting this option, I understand, agree, certify, and authorize the above statement.

After consenting to share, students may either upload images or a pdf copy of their vaccination card or their COVID-19 test results.

COVID-19 Test Submission Summary

Your response was submitted to the Minnesota State System and will be forwarded to your college or university. Unless you receive further instructions, you have completed the Attestation Form process. Thank you.

[Return to eServices](#)

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Submission Date/Time	Test Date	Review Status
09/27/2021 04:19:23 PM	09/08/2021	Incomplete

When selecting to upload tests, students will be prompted to provide additional information about the tests.

COVID-19 Test Submission

Provide the results of the COVID-19 Test and supporting files as your proof of completing a COVID-19 Test. Single file size limit is 10MB and the allowed file types are PDF, JPG, JPEG, PNG.

Date the COVID-19 Test was taken: *

-Choose- | September | 2021

Results of the COVID-19 Test: *

- By checking here, you are indicating that you have tested **Negative for COVID-19**
- By checking here, you are indicating that you have tested **Positive for COVID-19**

Please provide files for review: *

| No file chosen

Students must provide the date the test was taken, what the result of the test was and may include image(s) or PDF(s) of the results.

If students are selecting to provide proof of vaccination can provide an image(s) of their COVID-19 card or a pdf(s).

On any of the screens within eServices, Students can back out and click on Return to eServices. Clicking on this button will direct the student to their student dashboard.

How do I provide COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination if I do NOT live in campus housing, participate in select campus or clinical activities, or intramural sports?

All students have a Student Health Services Patient Portal account. You can upload your proof of COVID-19 vaccination or any test results at this site: <https://mnsu.medicatconnect.com/>

What documentation can support an attestation of vaccination?

Proof of vaccination will be:

- An original CDC COVID-19 vaccination card;
- A paper or electronic copy of a CDC COVID-19 vaccination card; or
- An original or copy of an alternative official vaccination record, as proof of FDA- or WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccination status, if vaccinated in another country.

Proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 must legibly show, at a minimum:

- Name of the individual vaccinated
- Date of birth of the individual vaccinated
- The manufacturer of the vaccine
- The date(s) on which the vaccine was administered

Can students subject to these requirements request an exemption from the proof of vaccination requirement? Or the testing requirement? Can students request an ADA accommodation for an exemption from the vaccination attestation or testing requirement?

Students subject to these guidelines can choose to not be vaccinated or choose to not share their vaccination status. In those cases, students subject to these guidelines must undergo regular testing. There is no religious or conscientious objection exemption form associated with the COVID-19 testing process.

For those students who participate in weekly COVID-19 testing, what is the campus testing plan?

Students have the choice on where to have their weekly COVID-19 testing. Minnesota State Mankato will provide a no cost on-campus testing solution on Tuesdays from 9 am to 3 pm in Carkoski Dining Hall. Off-campus testing options may have a cost, which will be borne by the student.

Do students need to use a specific type of COVID-19 test?

Apart from the specifics of NCAA testing, no specific type of test is required.

Who is responsible for the costs associated with testing?

Colleges and universities are responsible for covering the cost of testing.

Are students in compliance with the testing requirement while waiting for test results if one week has lapsed since the previous test?

Yes, students may continue their normal activities while waiting for test results.

What are the consequences of students who do not undergo regular testing?

If students decline to submit proof of vaccination and do not undergo regular testing, students will not be permitted to participate in their selected activity or event.

Is there an incentive for all students to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination?

Yes, all students who provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination will receive a special Maverick t-shirt. Additionally, a drawing for five (5) students to receive an incentive equal to one semester of tuition and fees will occur on November 1st, December 1st, and January 10th for any student who has provided proof of COVID-19 vaccination.