



COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements at New England's Colleges and Universities

JUNE 2021

After a full academic year of frequent testing, isolation and quarantine protocols, remote and hybrid learning and an overwhelming need for constant adaptability, colleges and universities in New England, and across the country, are looking toward a “normal” fall 2021 semester. But, what does “normal” mean in a post-pandemic world? What are the pros and cons of requiring postsecondary communities to be fully vaccinated? If campuses forego the COVID-19 vaccine requirement, how will they ensure a culture of equity and inclusion among students who are not vaccinated? These are the questions that institutions across the country are grappling with as the fall semester rapidly approaches.

In March, 2021, Rutgers University was the first institution to require students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Since then, many institutions in New England, the most vaccinated region in the country, have joined Rutgers in requiring students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before returning to campus in the fall. Having a vaccinated population is the safest way to conduct a fall semester with a full-capacity campus. Moreover, fully vaccinated students will help to stop the spread of the virus in the communities surrounding our New England campuses. So, which New England institutions are requiring the vaccine for students?

AS OF JUNE 2021

87 (over 2/3) of New England's colleges and universities will require students to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 for fall 2021: 60 private campuses and 26 public campuses

Some institutions including University of Vermont and Northern Vermont University have voiced their intentions to require the vaccine should it receive full approval from the FDA.

What does the CDC say?



In June 2021, the CDC released updated guidance for colleges and universities, specifying:

- ✓ Institutions where all students, faculty, and staff are fully vaccinated prior to the start of the semester can return to full capacity in-person learning, without requiring or recommending masking or physical distancing for people who are fully vaccinated.
- ✓ When holding gatherings and events that include individuals who are not fully vaccinated such as campus visitors or others from outside of the institution, institutions should utilize appropriate prevention strategies to protect people who are not fully vaccinated.
- ✓ People who are fully vaccinated do not need to undergo routine COVID-19 screening testing.
- ✓ If a fully vaccinated person is exposed to someone with COVID-19 they do not need to be tested unless they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- ✓ Institutions can be supportive of students, faculty, or staff who choose to continue to wear a mask for any reason.

If not requiring the COVID-19 vaccine, how are campuses encouraging students to get vaccinated?

Most institutions in New England that are not requiring students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine still state on their websites that they strongly encourage all members of the campus community to receive the vaccine.

University of New Haven and Sacred Heart University (CT)

University of New Haven (UNH) has replaced their COVID-19 case tracking dashboard with a vaccine dashboard to publicly convey the current vaccination rate of the campus community. Their goal is to reach an 85% vaccination rate by July 1 without requiring the vaccine. UNH will reevaluate vaccination protocol if this level of vaccination is not achieved.

CURRENT VACCINATION RATE

41%

Of the Campus Community is Vaccinated
(as of 06/03/2021, updated weekly)

OUR GOAL: 85% VACCINATION RATE BY JULY 1

UNH Dashboard

Sacred Heart University, also in Connecticut, has taken a similar approach to UNH. In recent communications to the campus community, Sacred Heart's Coronavirus Planning Team expressed dissatisfaction with the current vaccination rate of students and stated its intention to require the vaccine should the rate of vaccination remain low.

Which institutions will require the COVID-19 vaccine for students in fall 2021? (as of June 2021)

Connecticut

Independent institutions: Connecticut College, Post University, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer at Hartford, Trinity College, University of St. Joseph, Wesleyan University, Yale University

Public institutions: University of Connecticut (all campuses)

Maine

Independent institutions: Bates College, Bowdoin College, College of the Atlantic, Husson University, Saint Joseph's College of Maine

Public institutions: Central Maine Community College, Eastern Maine Community College, Kennebec Valley Community College, Northern Maine Community College, Southern Maine Community College, Washington County Community College, York County Community College

Massachusetts

Independent institutions: Amherst College, Anna Maria College, Assumption University, Babson College, Bay Path University, Bentley University, Berklee College of Music, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Clark University, College of the Holy Cross, Curry College, Dean College, Emerson College, Emmanuel College, Hampshire College, Harvard University, Lasell College, Lesley University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MCPHS University, Mount Holyoke College, Northeastern University, Simmons University, Smith College, Springfield College, Stonehill College, Suffolk University, Tufts University, Wheaton College, William James College, Williams College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Public institutions: Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Salem State University, University of Massachusetts (all campuses), Westfield State University, Worcester State University

**All state colleges and universities will require the vaccine for students; community colleges will not*

New Hampshire

Independent institutions: Colby-Sawyer College, Dartmouth College, New England College, Southern New Hampshire University,

**At this time, no public institutions in New Hampshire will require the vaccine for students*

Rhode Island

Independent institutions: Johnson & Wales University-Providence, New England Institute of Technology, Providence College, Roger Williams University, Salve Regina University

Public institutions: University of Rhode Island

Vermont

Independent institutions: Bennington College, Champlain College, Middlebury College, Saint Michael's College,

Public institutions: University of Vermont

SOURCE: Individual institution websites and [University Business](#)

With questions or updates, please reach out to:
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