



## COVID-19 Vaccinations

### Frequently Asked Questions

The College is encouraging all students to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. At this time, the College recognizes that this is a personal decision. With the goal of health and safety as our top priority, achieving a high level of vaccination will promote a safer Muhlenberg College community during this pandemic.

The College appreciates when students are vaccinated to protect themselves against developing severe COVID-19 disease, and to benefit the broader community by contributing to bringing the pandemic under control. However, until the College reaches more widespread vaccination within our community and knows more about the vaccine, all public health measures will remain in effect.

#### **Why should I consider being vaccinated for COVID-19?**

- » Protect yourself, your fellow MULES, and your families.
- » Decrease the incidence of COVID-19 on our campus. You are potentially less likely to spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others.
- » Travel without the need for quarantine.
- » Decrease your risk of getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- » Vaccine is free. Health insurance is not required.
- » COVID-19 exposures who are fully vaccinated are exempt from quarantine requirements.

#### **Do I need to send my vaccination records to the College?**

Yes, once you are vaccinated please scan or take a picture of your vaccination card and upload it to your student health portal so that we may update your vaccination records. This will also expedite the process should you be named a close contact of a positive case, so that we are able to work more quickly with our contact tracers to assess whether or not quarantine will be required.

#### **Do I have to adhere to the COVID-19 policies if I am vaccinated?**

Yes, all students must adhere to all COVID-19 policies, to include the Mandatory Face Mask and Social Distancing Policy, Phased Approach to Visitor Policy (residential properties), and the College Visitor Policy and Visitor Pass Protocol (for non student visitors), regardless of having received the vaccination or not.

Even when vaccinated, you must comply with all other requirements like completing the Daily Self Assessment (symptom checker), wearing face coverings, maintaining six feet of physical distance and avoiding gatherings, and practicing good hand hygiene.

For general information, please see the CDC website: [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated: How to Protect Yourself and Other](#)

#### **Am I still required to test after COVID-19 vaccination?**

Yes, fully vaccinated students are required to continue to participate in the College's COVID-19 surveillance testing.

#### **If I get a COVID-19 PCR test after I am vaccinated, will I get a false positive test result?**

The College's COVID-19 surveillance testing program is a PCR test which does not detect antibodies. Being vaccinated does not affect the results of our surveillance testing.

### **Am I required to quarantine if exposed to a positive case after vaccination?**

COVID-19 vaccinated students, faculty and staff do not need to quarantine following exposure to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 provided they meet ALL the following criteria:

- » They are fully vaccinated (i.e.  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine);
- » They are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series;
- » They have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure; and
- » They have provided documentation of vaccination to the College.
  - Students will need to upload documentation of vaccination to Health Services through their student health portal.
  - Faculty and staff will need to provide proof of vaccination to Human Resources.

### **Can I travel once vaccinated?**

In order to mitigate the spread of the virus, students are strongly encouraged to stay within the Allentown area. Students should restrict travel only to that which is necessary, such as healthcare, employment, significant emergency situations, significant family events, and students going home for self-isolation (COVID-19 positive) or post-exposure quarantine. Travel to other colleges and universities for reasons other than College-sanctioned events or for graduate or employment interviews is prohibited. Large gatherings should be avoided to every extent possible. We strongly discourage all other travel.

Students traveling overnight and more than 15 miles from the College must register their travel by completing the [College Related Domestic and International Travel Registration Form](#) and have a COVID-19 test within 3 days before returning to campus. Test results must be uploaded to the health portal and reviewed by Health Services before their return. Because the tests are reviewed during business hours (Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm), weekend returns will not be considered.

#### **Additional Information**

- » For students who are traveling and returning to the College within 24 hours, a test will not be required.
- » Students who are attending a high risk gathering, a gathering with more than ten people in attendance, or traveling by plane, are required to quarantine 7 days post travel/post high risk gathering. Before travel, students must consult with Health Services re quarantine requirements. Students must have a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test on day 5 of quarantine and within 3 days before they return to campus.
- » Students who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (to include two weeks following completed vaccine series) and who have uploaded vaccination documentation to their health portal will be required to submit a COVID-19 test within 3 days before their return, but will be exempt from quarantine requirements.
- » Students who have had a positive COVID-19 laboratory test within the past 90 days do not need COVID-19 testing or quarantine after travel.
- » If the purpose of travel is a day trip for a COVID-19 vaccination, students do not need to register this travel. Students must upload their vaccination document to their health portal.
- » International students must notify Thomas Janis, Director of International Student Support, at 484-664-3448 or [thomasjanis@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:thomasjanis@muhlenberg.edu), regarding their international travel plans.
- » While traveling, students should keep their cell phone charged to facilitate communications. If a student knowingly becomes exposed to COVID-19 or have any symptoms (i.e. fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.), the student must call Health Services (484-664-3199) before returning to campus.
- » Students who must travel from the College should take items with them that are essential in case they are required to quarantine.
- » Students' IDs will be deactivated until approved to return.

### **If I have an appointment to obtain my vaccine outside of Allentown, what are my next steps?**

Students traveling overnight for the vaccine must complete the [College Related Domestic and International Travel Registration Form for Students](#) prior to travel.

If you are able to travel directly to and from your appointment on the same day (preferred), you will not need to submit a COVID-19 test. If you are required to remain overnight, then you must complete the re-entry process which includes submission of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 3 days prior to return to campus.

### **What should I expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccination?**

Individuals may have some side effects, which are normal signs that their bodies are building protection. These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects.

Common side effects include: pain, redness, swelling on the arm where the vaccine was administered. Other common side effects through the rest of the body may include: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea, etc.

If students have pain or discomfort after getting the vaccine, they can talk to Health Services about taking over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

To reduce discomfort from a fever students should: drink plenty of fluids and dress lightly.

To reduce pain and discomfort where the vaccine was administered, students should: apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area, use or exercise their arm.

Students should contact Health Services or their healthcare provider:

- » If the redness or tenderness where you received the vaccine increases after 24 hours and/or
- » If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days.

For more information, visit the CDC Website: [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

### **How do I complete my Daily Self Assessment (symptom checker) if I am having symptoms after receiving my second dose?**

If you are experiencing mild symptoms but are able to report to class or work, these symptoms will present challenges when completing the Daily Self Assessment (symptom checker). If you were feeling fine the day before your second dose, and then the next day or two after getting the vaccine are experiencing symptoms consistent with that second dose (e.g., fatigue, chills, body aches, or sore arm), when completing the Daily Self Assessment (symptom checker) you can say “no” to having COVID-19 symptoms and report to class or work as long as you feel that you are able to do so successfully.

If you are a student attending class or activities on campus, and then begin to experience additional or heightened symptoms, please return to your residence hall/apartment or off-campus living arrangement and contact Health Services (8:00 am to 4:30 pm at 484-664-3199) or Campus Safety (nights & weekends at 484-664-3110) for further instructions.

If you are an employee that has reported to work, and then begin to experience additional or heightened symptoms, please alert your supervisor so that they can determine next steps which may include that you must leave campus for the remainder of the day.

If your symptoms are significant, please do not proceed to class or work, and fill out your Daily self Assessment accordingly. If a student, schedule an appointment with Health Services at 484-664-3199. If an employee, schedule an appointment with the telemedicine provider or your own health provider, and let your supervisor know.