

WSCL Return to Campus Policy/Protocols

POLICY SUMMARY:

1. The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of the Western State community, including its students, faculty,¹ and staff as we return to predominantly in person instruction in the fall 2021 semester. Effective August 1, 2021, this policy requires all students, faculty, and staff accessing Western State facilities in person to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (as defined below) at least 14 days before the start of the Fall 2021 term, subject to limited exceptions and exemptions. All faculty, staff and students will be subject to the health and safety protocols outlined below, regardless of vaccination status. However, those who do not provide proof of timely vaccination or who claim exemption from vaccination (as described below) will be subject to weekly COVID testing requirements.
2. This policy recognizes that we are part of a local, regional, national and global community and that we bear a responsibility as community members to do our part to try to try to create a safe environment for ourselves and for all the members of our broader community, knowing that only through such a commitment can we tame the pandemic that has devastated the world for more than a year.

KEY PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS:

3. **Proof of vaccination:** All faculty, staff and students must show proof of being fully vaccinated at least 14 days before the start of the Fall 2021 term or claim exemption from vaccination. Proof of vaccination must be provided through a smartphone app called CLEAR by downloading the app, creating a free account, and uploading a picture of the CDC vaccine card, along with the individual's driver's license. Detailed instructions will follow. The app developer will verify the authenticity of the vaccine card and store vaccine information in a secure environment.
4. **Fully Vaccinated defined:** Fully vaccinated for purposes of this policy means receiving two doses Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. For international students who were vaccinated against COVID in their home country, receiving the full course of vaccination of a vaccine approved by health authorities in that country will satisfy this requirement. Any student who has been vaccinated outside the United States should notify Student Service immediately, as our app developer may not be able to verify the authenticity of an international vaccine card.

¹ All references to faculty in this document include full-time and adjunct faculty, but not special guest lecturers.

5. **Exemption from vaccination:** Individuals who for medical, religious, or other personal reasons² wish not to be vaccinated must fill out an exemption from vaccination form, which will be available online. An individual granted an exemption from vaccination requirements must show proof when entering the campus of a negative COVID test taken within the last week. A list of nearby testing facilities will be provided whose test results can be automatically uploaded to the CLEAR app's secure database so that negative test results will be displayed on the individual's smartphone CLEAR app until new test results are required. There are additional COVID protocols described below that will apply to all individuals on campus, whether or not vaccinated.
6. **Late vaccination:** Anyone who is fully vaccinated after the start of the Fall 2021 term may provide proof of vaccination, once vaccinated, by the same upload process noted in paragraph 3, above. They will be exempt from weekly COVID testing requirements starting on the 14th day after final vaccination. At that point, the CLEAR app will show a vaccine status of fully vaccinated.
7. **Daily check in and other health and safety requirements for all faculty, staff and students:** In order to allow for speedy and efficient daily check in, every member of the faculty, staff and student body will be required to download the CLEAR smartphone app referred to in paragraph 3, above, before the beginning of the fall semester. Details on finding and downloading the app will be provided soon. The CLEAR app, when opened for the first time each day, will show the required COVID protocol questions that must be answered, and will also access the app developer's secure database to show whether vaccination status has been verified, or whether a timely negative COVID test has been uploaded. Each student, staff or faculty member must display this app to security when entering either building.
8. **Movement between buildings:** When individuals move from one campus building to the other they will have to display their open CLEAR app to security at the second building showing that the protocol questions have been answered and that proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test has been provided.
9. **Additional safety protocols while on campus:** All individuals on campus must continue to wear proper face coverings (except when in an office or private study room alone or when all in the room are known to be fully vaccinated), practice physical distancing, and observe other pandemic safety precautions, whether or not vaccinated, and whether or not these measures are required by the State of California or Orange County, unless and until this policy is amended in light of further developments in the pandemic. While the CDC and the State of California have determined that fully vaccinated individuals need not wear face coverings in many circumstances, LA County has recently mandated face coverings indoors for all individuals, whether or not vaccinated. Western State has decided that for the safety of all members of our community who are on campus the best practice remains for all on campus to wear proper face

² At the point when one or more of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines is fully approved by the FDA exemptions for personal reasons will no longer be recognized. Exemptions will only be recognized at that point for medical or religious reasons.

coverings for the benefit of our entire community. Not everyone is vaccinated. Some choose not to receive the vaccine. People with auto immune diseases may find the vaccines less effective, though they are at higher risk of serious complications from COVID-19. Others face the threat of severe allergic reactions to the vaccine. And COVID-19 continues to be a deadly threat to those who have not received a vaccine. We are now safer than we have been since this pandemic began, but we are not yet in place where all in our community are safe. So for now, we will act together to protect all members of our community. We will regularly reexamine all of these safety protocols.

These protocols will also apply in classrooms, where seating will be in every other seat, staggered by rows.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THERE IS A POSITIVE TEST, COVID SYMPTOMS, OR COVID EXPOSURE:

- 10. COVID reporting requirements:** Faculty, staff and students who experienced COVID-19 symptoms, who test positive for COVID-19, or who may have been exposed to others with the virus must notify the Assistant Dean of Student Services immediately. Western State will respond swiftly but carefully to both protect others from exposure and respect the privacy of any sick individual. Western State will not disclose the identity of any affected individual.

See the CDC guidelines [here](#) for the isolation requirements for those with COVID symptoms or who test positive, and the quarantine requirements for those who might have been exposed to others with the virus.

- 11. Contact Tracing:** Western State will initiate contact tracing immediately after any report of COVID symptoms, a positive COVID test result, or possible COVID exposure. Contact tracing is the process of identification of persons who may have been in recent contact with an infected person and subsequent collection of further information about these contacts. The individual reporting possible COVID infection or exposure will provide to the contact tracer the name and phone number or email address of anyone they have been in significant contact with (within 6 feet of, with or without use of face coverings, sustained for at least 15 minutes, in an enclosed space within the past 5 days before either testing or symptoms). The contact tracer will reach out by phone or email to those who have been exposed. Western State will use information collected through contact tracing to determine if any individuals exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 need to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms.
- 12. Students who must isolate or quarantine:** If a student is required to isolate or quarantine due to a COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosis, or COVID exposure, the student should immediately notify Student Services. Arrangements will be made for the student to attend classes via Zoom for the duration of the mandated isolation or quarantine.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

13. **Air filtration:** All HVAC filters throughout both buildings are MERV-13 filters, the highest level of filters available for the HVAC system. The percentage of air circulated through the HVAC system that is outside air fluctuates between 30% and 100%, depending on outside temperature.
14. **Visitors to campus:** Visitors to the campus will not be required to show proof of vaccination or negative COVID test, but must submit to a temperature check and answer the COVID protocol questions, as well as following face covering and social distancing requirements.
15. **No smartphone access:** In the event that a faculty, staff or student body member coming to campus does not have access to their smartphone (e.g., lost, left at home, broken), the individual will need to follow the requirements for visitors until they can retrieve or replace their smartphone.
16. **No fully online program of study:** While there will be a few classes (mostly electives) designated as online, all classes not specifically designated as online will be offered in person only (subject to the COVID quarantine exception noted above). It will not be possible for a student to enroll for a semester in exclusively online classes.
17. **Future policy changes:** Western State reserves the right to make future changes in this policy including the addition of booster vaccine requirements or loosening or tightening of health and safety protocols. In addition, should there be a spike in COVID cases in OC or Southern California, we may return to fully online temporarily or for the remainder of the term.

VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY: Violations of this policy by a student will subject the student to charges under the Honor Code. Violations of this policy by faculty or staff will subject the violator to appropriate administrative sanctions.