

WSCL COVID-19 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 during predominantly in person instruction starting 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 classes, 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 are granted exemption from vaccination (as described below) will be subject to weekly COVID testing requirements in lieu of vaccination.
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 and having received a booster shot, of eligible, OR have received an exemption from vaccination requirements in order to enter the WSCL campus. 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 or California provided QR code, along with the individual's driver's license. 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.
5. **Booster Shot requirement:** Booster shots are currently available to all individuals who were fully vaccinated more than five months ago for the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or more than two months ago for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Effective February 14, 2022, all

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

faculty, staff and students who are eligible for a booster shot are required to obtain a booster shot. The CLEAR app will allow users to upload proof of receipt of a booster shot via a QR code that can be obtained from the State of California at this address: <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>. Individuals who obtained their booster shot outside California should notify Student Services immediately.

6. **Exemption from vaccination:** Individuals who for medical or religious reasons wish not to be vaccinated must apply for an exemption from vaccination. The application form is available online at this address: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRQ25-ir_CQQVgoimMglUpCk7FemFxb45vmDITwylzzNWaXQ/viewform. Individuals granted exemption from vaccination requirements must show proof when entering the campus of a negative COVID test taken at their expense within the last week. Contact Student Services for details about how to enter the campus with proof of a negative test.
7. **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 proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test.
8. **Mask Requirements:** All individuals — whether vaccinated and boosted or not — are required to wear well-fitting face masks in indoor spaces on the WSCL campus, including (but not limited to) classrooms, offices, workspaces, study rooms, the library, and common areas. Masks may be removed when actively eating or drinking. But please be respectful of those nearby who could be exposed and adhere to social distancing requirements. In workspaces, masks can be removed when one is alone in an office.
9. **Upgraded masks required:** Because of the ease of transmission of the omicron variant, it is important to wear a mask that provides acceptable levels of protection, both for the wearer and those around the wearer, and to wear these masks properly so they fit snugly covering the mouth and nose. The following are acceptable and unacceptable masks:

Acceptable types of upgraded masks:

- Medical-grade procedure masks
- Surgical masks
- Cloth masks as an extra layer on top of medical-grade or surgical masks
- KN95s and KF94s
- N95s or other respirators approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Unacceptable face coverings:

- cloth masks
- scarves
- balaclavas
- ski masks
- neck gaiters
- bandanas
- turtleneck collars
- and most masks with external valves or vents

For more information on upgraded masks and respirators, see the LACDPH's [Upgraded Mask Guidance \(PDF\)](#).

For more information on finding acceptable masks and avoiding counterfeit masks, see the following: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/covid-masks.html?searchResultPosition=7>.

CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES WHEN THERE IS A POSITIVE TEST, COVID SYMPTOMS, OR COVID EXPOSURE (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>):

10. **If you test positive for COVID-19:** Regardless of vaccination status you should isolate for five days or until you are fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are resolved.
11. **If you are symptomatic:** Regardless of vaccination status you should get tested and isolate. If you test positive isolate for five days or until you are fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are resolved. If you test negative, stay home until symptoms resolve.
12. **If you are boosted and are exposed to someone who tests positive for Covid:** Test for Covid at day five. You need not quarantine or isolate unless you test positive or develop symptoms.
13. **If you are not boosted and are exposed to someone who tests positive for Covid:** Quarantine for five days, test on day five. Isolate if you test positive or develop symptoms.
14. **REPORTING POSITIVE TESTS, SYMPTOMS OR EXPOSURE:** Anyone who tests positive, develops symptoms, or is exposed to someone who tests positive, must report this information to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs using this reporting form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdS9t-ncbAAVN0EqvnumTc3Cv6xzd-jHG6mBfzcx0oowcMoSA/viewform>.
15. **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.
16. **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:

- 17. International travel:** Students, staff, and faculty returning from international travel will be required to follow CDC guidelines. All individuals who return from international travel must obtain a COVID-19 test 3-5 days following return to the US. If the returning individual is fully vaccinated the individual will be able to access the campus without delay unless they develop symptoms or test positive. If the individual is not fully vaccinated, the individual will be required to quarantine for 10 days. If the COVID-19 test taken 3-5 days after return to the US comes back negative, the individual can shorten the quarantine to 7 days after returning to the US. Any individuals returning from international travel who develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 must follow the CDC isolation policy [CDC guidelines](#).
- 18. 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.
- 19. Visitors to campus:** Visitors to the campus should contact the department they wish to visit in advance of their visit to inquire about COVID protocols. At a minimum visitors will be required to undergo a temperature check and answer the COVID protocol questions, and adhere to masking and social distancing protocols.
- 20. 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.
- 21. 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.
- 22. 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.