

Notice: COVID-19 vaccine requirements established by clinical settings, external organizations

Clinical settings and other external organizations may have COVID-19 vaccination requirements that differ from the university's vaccine policies and are beyond the university's control.

For students — such as those in nursing degree programs — whose academic progress depends on clinical placements, failure to meet COVID-19 vaccination requirements established by external organizations could mean they will be unable to finish their degree.

What students need to know

- Students who are required to participate in clinicals, internships, and other forms of experiential learning as part of their degree program are subject to the COVID-19 vaccination requirements of the organization where they are placed.
- COVID-19 vaccination policies of a clinical setting or other external organization, including any exemptions to a COVID-19 vaccine requirement that the organization has implemented, are beyond the control of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- Students in healthcare professional programs who choose not to comply with a COVID-19 vaccination requirement established by a clinical agency could face serious delays toward degree completion. Because of the complexities of arranging clinical placements and the likely increase in placement sites that require COVID-19 vaccination, university staff will not be able to re-arrange clinical placements for students who refuse or are unable to meet a clinical agency's vaccination requirement.
- Students in non-healthcare programs who refuse to follow the COVID-19 vaccination requirements of the external organization where they are placed to meet a degree requirement should also expect serious delays toward degree completion.
- As more organizations — including the limited number of healthcare agencies that offer clinical placements — require COVID-19 vaccination, progress toward degree completion will depend on student compliance with the organization's vaccination requirements.

Faculty and Staff

- Faculty and staff whose job responsibilities include assignment in a clinical setting are expected to follow any health requirements established by the setting, including all vaccination requirements.

Attendees or participants at events hosted by external organizations renting campus facilities

- External organizations often enter into rental agreements or memorandums of understanding with the university to use campus facilities for events such as concerts and theatre productions.

- For these events, the external organization may establish health and safety requirements that differ from the university's as part of their agreement. The organization can require attendees and participants to follow their guidelines, which could include showing proof of COVID-19 vaccination.