

## UTHSC COM COVID-19 Vaccination, Quarantine, and PPE Guide Students - Revised 1.31.22

### Vaccination, Testing, and PPE Rules:

1. Vaccination definitions:
  - a. Fully vaccinated = 2 weeks after the second dose of a 2-dose series vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna) or 2 weeks after a 1-dose series vaccine (Johnson & Johnson)
  - b. Under-vaccinated = only 1 of a 2-dose series has been received or within 2 weeks of receiving the second dose of a 2-dose series or within 2 weeks of receiving a 1-dose series vaccine.
  - c. Unvaccinated = No doses of vaccine have been received
  - d. \*Please note that some clinical facilities are also requiring booster doses and CMS may also change current guidance to include a booster. Some clinical sites do not allow a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and will require a booster dose of either Pfizer or Moderna.
  
2. Vaccination against COVID-19 is strongly encouraged for all medical students.
  - a. **All students are requested to log their vaccination status or accommodation status in Qualified First (Verified Credentials):**
    - i. Website: <http://scholar.verifiedcredentials.com/uthsc>
    - ii. Code: GGRXJ-47969
  - b. UTHSC collects this information for purposes of qualification to participate in hospital/clinical site training per the site's requirements. UTHSC does not mandate vaccination or reporting COVID-19 status. However, failure to provide this information will
  
3. Hospital vaccination requirements:
  - a. **MEMPHIS:**
    - i. Baptist Hospital, all MLH facilities (including Le Bonheur), MMHI, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital require all students rotating in their facility to be vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated, you will not be allowed to rotate. No exemptions will be granted.
    - ii. VA requires students to be fully vaccinated but allows applications for exemptions.
      1. Students wishing to apply for an exemption should complete [VA Form 10230](#) and send to Dr. Bettin to be forwarded to the VA staff.
    - iii. ROH requires students to be fully vaccinated.
      1. Students requesting exemptions should email the medical director, Dr. Martin Croce [mcroce@regionalonehealth.org](mailto:mcroce@regionalonehealth.org) directly to request an exemption.
    - iv. St. Francis – They are still working on their processes for vaccination requirements and exemptions. Please contact the CD for these rotations if you have questions.
  - b. **NASHVILLE:**
    - i. All Ascension St. Thomas facilities are requiring COVID vaccination now.
    - ii. Medical and religious exemptions will be considered and will be processed through UTHSC's OIED office. See process below.
  - c. **KNOXVILLE:**

- i. UHS and ETCH require students to be fully vaccinated.
- Medical and religious exemptions will be considered and will be processed through either through UHS [  
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=yexyqqmr9Uy5gLKr6-hidhpw3Xw7idpKulzeVm8MUJRUMFINNlpZUDhGMzA5RjFKWkixSFRSUIZGSC4u>
  - ii. Or UTHSC's OIED office. See process below.
- d. CHATTANOOGA:
  - i. Erlanger Hospital requires students to be fully vaccinated.
  - ii. Medical and religious exemptions will be considered and will be processed through UTHSC's OIED office. See process below.
- e. JACKSON:
  - i. West Tennessee Health facilities: All students are required to be vaccinated. Medical and religious exemptions will be considered. Students may apply for exemptions by filling out the appropriate form located here: [COVID-19 Vaccination - West Tennessee Healthcare](#), password **wthinfo**. Students should send the completed form to: [studentexemptionrequest@wth.org](mailto:studentexemptionrequest@wth.org)
- f. Be prepared to provide documentation of your vaccination status to each of your coordinators prior to the start of every rotation if asked.
- g. EXEMPTIONS:
  - i. Requests for exemptions may be made to the UTHSC OIED using the forms below (unless an alternative process is outlined above), however you must verify that the clinical site will accept exemptions.
    1. [Religious Accommodation Request Form](#)
    2. [Medical Accommodation Request Form](#)
  - ii. **You should be aware that accommodations are not automatic and may be denied. It may be helpful to the reviewer to provide additional information, such as religious texts, statements by recognized ecclesiastical authorities, information describing unfamiliar religious beliefs, or other information which would assist the reviewing body.**

4. Hospital testing rules:

- a. Memphis
  - i. Asymptomatic pre-rotation testing can be done at UHS on Monday and Friday afternoons.
  - ii. MLH facilities –
    1. MUH/MGT - Test twice per year. Once prior to your first rotation of the year and once prior to your January rotation. Tests must be done within **one week** of starting the rotation. No testing required after quarantine for exposure, symptomatic disease, or positive COVID test in the last 90 days.
    2. Le Bonheur – No testing required for fully vaccinated students.
  - iii. ROH – No testing required for fully vaccinated students.
  - iv. Baptist – No testing required for fully vaccinated students.
  - v. St. Francis – No testing required for fully vaccinated students. If under- or unvaccinated, test before every rotation, within 1 week of the rotation start. Testing IS required even after a positive COVID test in the past 90 days.
  - vi. VA – No testing requirements.

- b. Chattanooga – No testing requirements.
  - c. Knoxville – No testing requirements.
  - d. Nashville – No testing requirements.
  - e. Jackson – No testing requirements.
5. PPE rules:
- a. All students must **wear a face mask at all times** in clinical facilities. When in patient care areas, students must also wear a face shield OR goggles (not eyeglasses).
    - i. All facilities are requiring face mask and face shield or goggles when patient facing. N95 masks are necessary for COVID+ patients or PUIs.
    - ii. ROH (Memphis) – Requires N95 with EVERY patient interaction.
    - iii. Erlanger (Chattanooga) – Encourages use of N95.
    - iv. N95 masks and face shields are available for students in the Office of Medical Education, 910 Madison Ave, Ste 1002.
6. What an inconclusive COVID test result means and what you need to do.
- a. The test is neither positive nor negative. You need to get retested.
  - b. Exposure to someone with this result is NOT considered an exposure unless the person subsequently tests positive and the criteria above are met.
7. "Can I take care of COVID+ patients?"
- a. Yes, students are permitted to care for COVID+ patients provided that the student has appropriate PPE (N95 mask, eye protection, gown, gloves) and this is consistent with the hospital's/clinical site's policy.

### Exposure and Symptomatic Person Rules:

1. Definition of an exposure:
- a. Interacting within 6 ft for a total of 15 minutes or more of anyone who tests/tested positive if you:
    - i. didn't wear a face mask.
    - ii. didn't wear eye protection while the person didn't wear a face mask
    - iii. didn't wear full PPE during an aerosol-generating procedure.
  - b. If you are wearing a mask and face shield or goggles and no aerosol-generating procedure, this is not considered an exposure.
2. What to do if exposed
- a. Updated CDC Testing Guidelines: "People who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should be tested to check for infection:
    - i. Fully vaccinated people should be tested 5-7 days after their last exposure.
    - ii. People who are not fully vaccinated should get tested immediately when they find out they are a close contact. If their test result is negative, they should get tested again 5–7 days after their last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop."
  - b. If you are **fully vaccinated**, no quarantine is required. You should self-monitor for symptoms daily for 14 days following the exposure. If you become symptomatic, immediately start isolation and follow guidelines below for symptomatic individuals.
  - c. If you are **under- or unvaccinated**, you must self-quarantine for 10 days.

- d. KNOXVILLE (UTMCK) - Everyone with a high-risk exposure needs to be tested:
    1. <https://insite.utmck.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/COVID-Exposure-Protocol-5.7.pdf>
    2. Infection prevention will coordinate testing with occ med for any exposed.
    3. Vaccinated can continue to work, they get tested at baseline and at 7 days.
    4. Unvaccinated must furlough for at least 7 days and have a negative test before return.
  - e. NASHVILLE – follow the instructions in the Student Onboarding Information document.
  - f. For all, please **notify your local clerkship director, coordinator, dean, and employee/occupation health** if you have been exposed or test positive for COVID.
  - g. For all exposed M3 and M4 students who require 10 or 14-day quarantine, you may choose to complete a 2-week online course (i.e. Core Topics course) during the time of your quarantine.
    - i. Make-up time – Regardless of the number of working days missed on the rotation, you will need to schedule a 2-week block (either “Core Completion” or option block) to make up the missing part of your rotation if it is a required rotation or an elective necessary for graduation. It will be at the discretion of the clerkship/course director to determine the appropriate make-up requirements/days in order to meet the goals and objectives of the rotation and obtain fair and accurate evaluations.
3. What to do if you think you may have COVID or COVID-like symptoms. Where can I get tested?
- a. Notify your course/clerkship director and corresponding Sr/Assistant Dean immediately.
  - b. Begin isolation.
  - c. Get tested at one of the community sites here:  
<https://covid19.memphistn.gov/resources/covid-19-testing-sites-in-shelby-county/>
  - d. Notify your course/clerkship director of your test results when they are available so that you can restart your course/rotation.
4. How to **prevent** getting exposed
- a. Always wear a face mask and either approved goggles or a face shield in all clinical settings.
  - b. Maintain social distancing (minimum of 6 feet) in the hospital, when meeting with the team AND when eating.
  - c. Consider maintaining social distancing/mask and face shield (not necessary if everyone wears a mask or everyone is vaccinated) at home if you live with other HCW's.
  - d. Get vaccinated!
5. What to do if **someone you live with** has been exposed but is asymptomatic and has NOT tested positive.
- a. You do not need to quarantine and may continue to go to your rotations. However, if the exposed person becomes symptomatic OR tests positive, then follow the steps above for directions on what to do.
    - i. Have the exposed individual self-quarantine in a separate room (bring food and drinks to them but leave outside closed door).

- ii. Thoroughly disinfect commonly used surfaces (light switches, doorknobs, countertops, refrigerator door handles, etc)
  - iii. If the contact is unable to abide by the rules for self-quarantine, you or they need to find alternative housing. If the exposed person is a child or dependent from which you cannot quarantine, then you will need to quarantine per local health department and hospital policy guidelines.
6. What if I have been vaccinated with one of the COVID-19 vaccines? Does this change my quarantine, exposure, or testing rules?
- a. **Students who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and are exposed to COVID-19 do NOT need to quarantine provided that they meet the following criteria:**
    - i. Are fully vaccinated
    - ii. Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure
  - b. If you have been vaccinated and are exposed to COVID-19, do the following:
    - i. Contact your course/clerkship director and coordinator immediately
    - ii. Contact your appropriate Assistant Dean (Dr. Bettin for the Clinical Curriculum)
    - iii. Provide the date of your exposure
    - iv. Provide documentation of your immunization status with dates of vaccines received.
    - v. If you meet the above criteria outlined by the CDC, then you will not need to quarantine provided that you remain asymptomatic. If you do not meet the above criteria, then you will still need to quarantine for 10 days.
  - c. Students who have been vaccinated are still required to adhere to the above testing guidelines set forth by the clinical sites.

**Positive tests:**

1. What to do if you test **positive**
  - a. You must self-isolate for 5 days and be fever-free with improved symptoms for at least 24 hrs prior to returning to the clinical setting. For the next 5 days, you need to wear an N95 mask in the clinical setting and a surgical mask at all other times.
    - i. No testing is required to return to rotations, as long as you have completed the required isolation period.
    - ii. Make-up time – It will be at the discretion of the clerkship/course director to determine the appropriate make-up requirements/days in order to meet the goals and objectives of the rotation and obtain fair and accurate evaluations.
  - b. Nashville – follow the instructions in the Student Onboarding Information document.
  - c. For all, please notify your local clerkship director, coordinator, dean, and employee/occupational health if you have tested positive.
  - d. Once you have had a positive COVID test or confirmed COVID illness, you do not have to quarantine for an exposure that is within 90 days of your positive test (no quarantine needed for vaccinated individuals with a COVID exposure.)
2. What to do if **someone you live with** tests **positive**.
  - a. Call employee/occupational health at your hospital. Most hospitals do not require quarantine as long as you remain asymptomatic and can appropriately distance yourself from your family member/roommate. If the hospital requires quarantine, then follow their rules/recommendations for quarantine.

- i. Have the +contact self-quarantine in a separate room (bring food and drinks to them but leave outside closed door).
- ii. Thoroughly disinfect commonly used surfaces (light switches, doorknobs, countertops, refrigerator door handles, etc)
- iii. If the contact is unable to abide by the rules for self-quarantine, you or they need to find alternative housing. If the +contact is a child or dependent from which you cannot isolate, then you will need to isolate/quarantine per local health department and hospital policy guidelines.

**Vaccine questions:**

1. When and how can I get my COVID-19 vaccine?
  - a. Adults and children  $\geq 12$  years old are eligible for vaccination. Children 5-11 years old are eligible for Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
  - b. Vaccination is strongly encouraged by UTHSC and is required for most clinical training sites.
  - c. Please visit the Shelby County Health Department website (<https://covid19.memphistn.gov/>) for a list of locations for first, second, and booster vaccinations.
2. When and where should I receive my second dose of the vaccine?
  - a. For the Pfizer vaccine, the recommended timing of your second dose is 21 days after the first dose with an acceptable range of 17-23 days. For the Moderna vaccine, the recommended timing of your second dose is 28 days.
3. Am I eligible for a booster dose?
  - a. Yes! As long as it has been 6 months since the date of your second Pfizer or Moderna vaccination. For those who received Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine, you should receive a booster of either Pfizer or Moderna.
  - b. Please log your booster dose in Verified Credentials once you have received it.

**NOTICE:** All of the above guidance is subject to change, without notice, at the discretion of the university or the hospital/clinical training site.