Information about COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccines

All students engaging in in-person activities sponsored by ESF must be vaccinated, consistent with the New York State directive for SUNY campuses and the SUNY COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

On 8/23/2021, the FDA approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. This will also be known as Comirnaty.

On 9/27/2021, enforcement of the vaccine mandate will become effective.

To meet the SUNY vaccine requirements, here are the options:

(1) you could choose to get the Pfizer/Comirnaty vaccine (2 doses); or
(2) you could choose to get one of the two other CDC-authorized (but not yet FDA-approved) vaccines – either Moderna (2 doses) or Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (one dose).

For international students, the World Health Organization also maintains a list of vaccines, and you may request that one of these vaccines be approved for use.

On or before 9/27/2021, students must show proof that they have completed a full vaccine series. This means that the student has either:

(1) received at least one dose of a single dose vaccine series; or
(2) received the first and second dose of a two-dose series.

The final shot must be received by 9/27/2021. (Note: If the final shot is received on this date, the two-week window after the final shot needed for immunity will end on 10/11/2021.)

All students must verify their vaccination status and upload a copy of their completed vaccination form here: https://esf.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3jvM8BT2eakTDaS.

Where to Obtain the COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccines are available at no-cost.

As of 8/23/2021, you can make an appointment for a vaccine at these places:
- New York State Department of Health – links to appointments at state-run sites and private-sites
- Vaccines.gov – shows sites within 25 miles of ESF (zip code 13210)
- New York State Fair – Art & Home Center (one dose – J&J)
- Walgreens – with locations near the ESF campus
- Kinney Drugs – with locations near the ESF campus
- Wegmans – with locations near the ESF campus

These sites are examples only, and vaccinations are available widely at pharmacies.
Health Benefits and Risks of COVID-19 Vaccinations

People who become infected with the COVID-19 virus and its variants may become severely ill and experience debilitating long-term effects. Death is a potential outcome.

Each individual’s health status is unique. This is not medical advice. To receive specific advice for you based on your own health history and risk factors, please consult with a medical professional.

Generally, studies have shown that vaccinated individuals are shown to be less likely to die or to otherwise become severely ill from contracting the virus. Not only does this protect the vaccinated individual, but it also reduces the impact on the healthcare system and frees resources for other patient needs.

Vaccinated individuals are less likely to transmit the virus to other individuals. This reduces the threat to the safety and well-being of those within the campus community who may be at risk for becoming infected with the virus.

You may experience side-effects from the vaccination, including on the arm where you received the injection and in the rest of your body, including fever, chills, and soreness. It should be noted that there have been reports of rare cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have been made with adolescents and young adults, but the CDC continues to recommend vaccination because of the benefits.

Beyond Health - Consequences for Failure to Obtain a Vaccine

All students must provide proof of vaccination to participate in in-person activities on campus, including classes, labs, and other activities.

Presentation of forged documents or not being truthful with vaccination status will result in legal action and/or student conduct action being taken against the relevant individuals.

Students who are not vaccinated (or who have not provided proof of vaccination) shall be excluded from participating in classes, labs, and ESF activities. Such students will be administratively withdrawn from their in-person courses and their registration will be deactivated.

Withdrawal and refunds will be consistent with SUNY and ESF policies, procedures, and schedules.

Potential consequences include:

- loss of money;
- negative marks or grades on your transcript or other educational materials if withdrawal occurs after classes start;
- negative impact or loss of financial aid;
- delays in attaining your educational goals;
- loss of practical experiential learning opportunities (labs, externships, other campus-based employment); and
- reduced opportunities for engaging in social activities.

Students may not be able to complete the work in a course if excluded because of vaccination status. Faculty are not required to record lectures or to provide real-time participation methods to lectures or labs for students who are excluded from participating because of vaccination status.

Among its goals, ESF is attempting to keep in-person activities continuing on its campus and to promote a safe and health campus community. ESF takes a hands-on approach, with many of its courses involving...
field work and lab experience. These classes are not practically held online. Our campus also relies on a close collaboration with Syracuse University, making use of its facilities and classrooms to supplement the educational experience on the ESF campus.

Until 9/27/2021, without proof of vaccination, you will be permitted to attend classes and labs on the ESF campus; however, you will be held to comply with all masking and testing guidelines for unvaccinated persons.

Effective immediately, without proof of vaccination, you are restricted from:

- utilizing Syracuse University facilities, including classrooms, labs, dining facilities, recreational facilities, and libraries, because vaccination is required for students on the Syracuse University campus;
- moving into Centennial Hall; and
- participating in extra-curricular activities or intercollegiate sports.

However, for Centennial Hall residents, a student who is partially-vaccinated, having the first dose of vaccine without reaching full vaccination status, may be allowed to move in, provided that such student also show (1) proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) taken within 5 days of arrival on campus and (2) proof of receiving the first dose.

Further, for extra-curricular activities and for intercollegiate athletics, a student who is partially-vaccinated, having the first dose of vaccine without reaching full vaccination status, may be allowed to participate in such activities if the student can also show (1) proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) conducted as part of the weekly surveillance testing and (2) proof of receiving at least the first dose.

COVID-19 Infection Prevention Protocols

To prevent infection with COVID-19, ESF is following the recommendations made by the CDC, including

- vaccination,
- mask wearing,
- social distancing & crowd avoidance,
- frequent hand washing & use of hand sanitizer,
- covering mouths and noses when sneezing or coughing (followed by hand washing or use of sanitizer, as practical), and
- self-monitoring of health symptoms and changes.

ESF has adopted the Campus Mask Status implemented by Syracuse University. This framework uses four levels to alert the community about masking requirements for using the campus facilities and applies to all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors on the ESF campus at Syracuse. ESF reserves the right to set its levels different from those on the Syracuse University campus based on conditions on the ESF campus.
Additional Information & Resources

- SUNY – Returning to Campus Safely this Fall: https://www.suny.edu/campus-reopening/
- SUNY – Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine for Students: https://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/webcastdocs/Mandatory%20Vaccine%20Resolution.pdf
- Onondaga County https://covid19.ongov.net/
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/
- Syracuse University – COVID Alert Framework: https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/covid-alert-framework/
- Syracuse University – Stay Safe – Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/frequently-asked-questions/#s:facilities-considerations
- ESF – COVID-19 Updates: https://www.esf.edu/restart/

Note: This information is intended to meet the campus’ obligation to provide students with appropriate information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines, required by SUNY Policy Document No. 3100. This may be periodically updated and replaced on the SUNY ESF website as new information may be known or publicly available.