



PACIFIC  
LUTHERAN  
UNIVERSITY

**PLU COVID-19 Vaccine Policy  
And Vaccine Exemption Form**  
*Updated: May 14, 2021*

A key component to opening safely and returning to in-person campus activities, consistent with public-health guidelines, is the requirement that all PLU students—undergraduate and graduate—be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and report it to the Health Center prior to arriving on campus in the fall.\*

Students should plan to complete their vaccine series two weeks prior to accessing campus. This will allow them sufficient time to reach fully vaccinated status. Find COVID-19 vaccine appointments in Washington State [here](#).

Additionally, all students must comply with PLU's current mitigation protocols, including intermittent proactive community testing for all students.

Mitigation protocols are based on current [public-health guidance for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals](#) and may change, pending updates by the CDC and the Washington State Department of Health. We will continue to follow local, state and national health directives, and reserve the right to change this directive if circumstances change.

***Exemptions***

As with other immunizations, students with documented medical or religious/right of conscience exemptions will be accommodated and not required to receive the vaccine. Medical exemptions are based on CDC contraindications for the vaccine. Contraindications beyond those listed on the exemption form must be discussed with and signed off by a healthcare provider.

Given unknown vaccine requirements of foreign jurisdictions, exemptions may not be possible for participation in Study Away programs.

***Allowances for students who cannot locate a vaccine appointment***

Our current plan is to accept FDA- and World Health Organization (WHO)-authorized vaccines. (Currently these include the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines that are being distributed in the U.S., as well as the AstraZeneca-SK Bio and the Serum Institute of India vaccines.)

This policy allows a grace period for individuals who were unable to access an FDA-authorized vaccine prior to coming to campus. Those students—we anticipate primarily international students—will have seven days upon arrival to campus to begin their vaccine series. Vaccination must be completed with the medically recommended interval to remain compliant with the policy.

Students in the process of completing their vaccine series are allowed to reside in residence halls, attend classes, and engage in other activities while following the university guidelines for mitigation strategies in place at that time.

***Exempt and partially vaccinated students***

Exempt students and students waiting to complete their vaccine series must comply with additional mitigation protocols, including:

- Wearing a mask in most indoor and some outdoor settings
- Following the CDC and Washington State recommendations to quarantine if exposed to a positive case
- Quarantining and testing prior to and upon return from travel out of state

The university will continue to review CDC, Washington State, Northwest Conference, and NCAA guidance to determine policy and procedures for participation in other university activities.

***Students with COVID-19-like symptoms***

Any student who develops illness symptoms consistent with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must contact the Health Center or their healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 testing. If they seek care from a non-PLU healthcare provider, the student must additionally inform the Health Center of the results of that evaluation, including COVID-19 test results.

\*The exception to this is the fully online Master of Science in Marketing Analytics. There is no vaccination requirement for this program.

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Pacific Lutheran University Health Center  
COVID-19 Vaccine Exemption Request Form

Religious Beliefs/Right of Conscience Exemption Request (to be completed by student, or parent or guardian if student is under 18)

Request for exemption based on religious beliefs: may occur if the bona fide religious beliefs of a student (or parent/guardian, if the student is under 18) are contrary to immunization with a COVID-19 vaccine. This exemption also includes students who object to COVID-19 vaccination due to the right of conscience. Right of conscience is broadly defined to include philosophical or conscientiously held beliefs that may not be tied to a particular organized religion.

The student will be exempt from the covid-19 vaccination requirement upon submission of the written statement below stating the religious, philosophical, or conscientiously held beliefs that are in opposition to the immunization requirement. The student must also indicate that they have read and understand the COVID-19 vaccine policy by initialing the box below.

Once completed, students should submit this form to the PLU Health Center and make an appointment to speak with a provider for review. Please call the Health Center at 253-535-7337, or email [health@plu.edu](mailto:health@plu.edu).

Student statement: (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

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I have read the PLU COVID vaccine policy and understand the implications of choosing to exempt myself from vaccination (initials required)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(or parent/guardian if student is under 18)