

Erikson Institute

COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate FAQs

Updated 8.25.21

As a result of the surges and community feedback, Erikson is enacting a COVID-19 vaccination mandate policy for all students and employees (including contracted employees) to return to on-campus activities starting September 3, 2021. Online students who are not visiting Erikson's campus and employees with an approved fully remote work schedule will not be required to comply.

This document includes FAQs and will be updated regularly as new questions emerge. If you have additional questions, please contact [David Wilson](#) (employees) or [Maggie Brett](#) (students). Thank you!

Our Rationale

Q: Why is Erikson mandating vaccines?

A: The health and safety of Erikson's clients, faculty, staff, students, and their families is our top priority. Given the recent surge of the COVID-19 delta variant, the fact that children under the age of 12 are not eligible to be vaccinated and members of our community are highly engaged with them, ensuring as many people as possible are vaccinated is critical to our public health efforts.

Q: How did we establish the timeline?

A: The timing of the mandate followed careful consideration of the trends in COVID-19 cases in our city and state, and survey data collected from staff and students in mid-August. The data indicated the vast majority of students and staff are fully vaccinated, and many people in our community wanted Erikson to implement a vaccine mandate. This expedited our efforts for implementation in parallel with the start of the fall academic term when many students and employees are returning to campus.

Q: Why are we allowing exceptions to the mandate?

A: We are following federal and State of Illinois laws in allowing exceptions to the mandate. Erikson Institute is required by the Illinois Department of Public Health to comply with the guidelines set forth by the College Immunization Code (77 Ill. Admin. Code 694,) which requires all students born on or after January 1, 1957, to provide the college with proof of immunity in writing by a health care provider against certain communicable diseases. Exemptions are allowed for medical contraindications, pregnancy or suspected pregnancy, and religious reasons. Erikson is also in compliance with federal employer workplace anti-discrimination laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to ensure rules and requirements regarding reasonable accommodations for disabilities, medical inquiries, and prohibition of discrimination, including pregnancy.

Implementing the Vaccine Mandate

Q: How do I provide proof of vaccination?

A: Employees must use this [form](#), and upload documentation as part of filling it out. Students must send an image or scanned document of their vaccination card via an email to registration@erikson.edu.

Q: What about exceptions?

A: Any employee or student may request an exception from the vaccine mandate under an approved type (medical, pregnancy, or religious). Employees may begin this process immediately by clicking on the [Employee COVID-19 Vaccination Form](#). Students requesting an exception should email registration@erikson.edu for further instructions. The type and description of student exceptions can be found in my.erikson.edu/registration and records/immunization information. Requests for exceptions will be reviewed and you will get further instructions.

The types of exceptions for employees are:

- **Medical Contraindications:** *A written, signed, and dated statement from their physician specifying the COVID-19 vaccine that is contraindicated and the duration of the medical condition(s) that contraindicates it. If such contraindications are temporary, employees must then comply with the vaccine mandate policy as soon as their physician approves.*
- **Pregnancy or Suspected Pregnancy:** *A signed statement verifying pregnancy or suspected pregnancy will temporarily exempt an employee from this requirement. The statement must indicate the expected date of delivery. The employee must then comply with the vaccine mandate policy as soon as practical after pregnancy and prior to return to in-person activities.*
- **Religious Exemptions:** *Objections to COVID-19 vaccination on religious grounds must be confirmed by a letter stating that such objections are based on bona fide religious tenets or practices. The letter must be on letterhead from a religious institution and signed by a religious official.*

Q: What if I lost my vaccine card?

A: The pharmacy or medical provider where you received the vaccine should be able to replace your card. All vaccine sites were also required to report individual patient data to the State of Illinois. Therefore, you can also contact the State of Illinois [vaccine portal](#) for a replacement card.

Q: Are we asking students or staff to sign a liability waiver?

A: We are **not** asking for a liability waiver. We are communicating expectations of Erikson Institute, its staff, and its students through the **Shared Responsibility** document (available on the employee intranet, and on my.erikson.edu for students).

Q: Will vaccinated people have to wear masks all the time on campus?

A: We currently have a mask mandate in place for anyone in public or communal spaces, including classrooms, at Erikson. Individuals may take a mask off for eating, drinking or while working privately in a room with a closed door.

Q: Will unvaccinated people have to wear masks all the time on campus?

A: Yes. Unvaccinated people must wear masks in all public/communal spaces, including classrooms, at Erikson. Individuals may take a mask off for eating, drinking or while working privately in a room with a closed door.

Q: Will there be unvaccinated people on campus?

Yes. If someone is unvaccinated and has been granted an exception, CCF clients under the age of 12 unable to get a vaccination, and occasional, pre-screened visitors **are permitted on campus**. Periodic COVID testing may be required.

Q: What if I already had COVID? Do I need to get a vaccine?

Yes. You should get the vaccine even if you have already had COVID-19. Some people have gotten COVID-19 more than once. The vaccine also offers more protection against reinfection than your body could develop on its own from already having COVID-19. You can get vaccinated as soon as you are out of your isolation period and are feeling better.

Q: I'm pregnant or think I might be. Can I come to campus if I'm not vaccinated?

A: If you have received a medical exception through either the student or employee protocol, you may come to campus.

Q: Will Erikson track who is vaccinated and who isn't at the point of entry (lobby)?

A: We are in the process of gathering staff and student proof of vaccination including following up with those who are non-responsive. We will be monitoring all staff, students, clients, and visitors on-campus.

Q: Will I have to do a health screening when I enter Erikson?

A: Only CCF clients will have to do the health screening, not employees or students.

Q: Will unvaccinated employees or students who have a medical exemption need to be tested to come to campus?

A: Yes. If employees or students have a medical exemption, and plan to return to campus for work, classes or any other in-person activities, **they will be required to provide a negative COVID test within the last seven days**.

Q: What if other variants come into play?

A: Erikson leadership will continue monitoring CDC and local public health guidance, as well as surveying students and employees to determine the best course of action should other COVID-19 variants come into play.

Q: Will booster shots be mandated too?

A: Guided by concern for the safety of the entire Erikson community, leadership will continue monitoring CDC and local public health guidance, as well as surveying students and employees to determine if booster shots will be mandated.

Student Questions

Q: If a student tests positive for COVID are they required to inform Erikson?

A: Yes. A student who tests positive should tell their professor, or [Maggie Brett](#). Please review the **Shared Responsibility** document on my.erikson.edu

Q: If someone in my on-campus class (including an instructor) tests positive for COVID, will the class be forced to quarantine and go online? Will these online classes be synchronous or asynchronous?

A: Yes. If a student or instructor in an on-campus class tests positive for COVID, the class will quarantine for 10 days, and content will be delivered online. It will be instructors' decision whether classes are synchronous, asynchronous, or a combination.

Q: What if I don't get the first or second vaccination in time—will I be dropped/withdrawn from my courses?

A: Please email registration@erikson.edu as soon as possible if you are unsure if you can meet the deadlines. See the resources below that can help you find access to vaccinations.

Q: If I am added to an online course after the October deadline will the new instructor accept my work from a previous instructor?

A: If you know you will not be vaccinated after the October deadline you should enroll in online or synchronous remote classes for the fall semester as soon as possible. Erikson discourages students switching between on campus and online courses mid-semester because it disrupts students' learning. However, if the office of Registration and Records approves a student's move from an on-campus section of a course to an online one after the October deadline, the new instructor will accept work previously submitted and graded by the previous instructor.

Q: Will on-campus courses be socially distanced?

A: Yes, as per our **Safety Policies and Procedures** document (found on the employee intranet, and on my.erikson.edu), social distancing applies to all gatherings on campus including classes.

Q: Will I have to do a health screening when I enter Erikson?

A: Only CCF clients will have to do the health screening, not employees or students.

Q: I'm an online student, can I still come to Erikson to use the library without proof vaccination?

A: No, if you do not have proof of vaccination as per our policy, or an exception, you may not come to campus.

Links to other resources:

[Illinois Dept of Public Health/covid19/vaccine-faq](https://www.vaccines.gov/)

<https://www.vaccines.gov/>

<https://www.vacunas.gov/> (in Spanish)

If you do not have reliable access to the internet to identify nearby vaccination locations or speak no or limited English and find it difficult to make an appointment for a vaccine over the phone, please know that the CDC operates a toll-free telephone line that can provide assistance in many languages for individuals seeking more information about vaccinations: **800-232-4636; TTY 888-232-6348.**