

Student Mandatory Vaccination or Testing Procedure: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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About the policy

How will Griffith's Mandatory Vaccination Policy affect me?

Under the Mandatory Vaccination Policy, all Griffith students are required to submit their vaccination status or medical exemption to comply with the policy:

- Research students must provide evidence of full vaccination at least two weeks prior to their commencement or for continuing students by 18 February 2022
- Continuing undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students must provide evidence of full vaccination at least two weeks prior to the commencement of their next trimester of study in 2022.
- Commencing undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students must provide evidence of full vaccination by Friday 1pm prior to the start of orientation week of their first trimester of study in 2022.
- International students returning from overseas must provide evidence of full vaccination prior to entering Australia.

More detail on how to submit your vaccination status or documentation can be found on the [COVID-19 vaccination requirements for students web page](#).

If you choose not to disclose your vaccination status or provide a medical exemption, you will be asked to agree to a regime of regular COVID-19 testing.

The Student Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination or Testing [Procedure](#) was developed in consultation with the Student Representative bodies. The procedure details how the policy will be implemented.

Who does the Mandatory Vaccination Policy apply to?

The COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination or Testing Policy applies to all students who study on campus, including Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates. The student [procedure](#) document details how the policy is implemented. If you study entirely online and do not have any on campus courses, you are exempt and do not need to follow the policy.

Why is Griffith implementing a Mandatory Vaccination Policy?

Vaccinations are proven to reduce the risk of infection and by implementing the Mandatory Vaccination Policy and testing regime, the University is taking all reasonable steps to provide a healthy and safe environment for all members of the community.

Getting vaccinated is not just about protecting you but protecting those around you.

What happens if the Government introduces a vaccine mandate for higher education?

If the Government introduces a vaccine mandate similar to those imposed in other sectors, it is unlikely there will be an option for unvaccinated students to undertake rapid testing to allow them to come on to campus. If the Government does not implement a public health order to mandate vaccinations at universities, we will proceed with our approach as planned.

If mandates change during the trimester, how will this impact me?

The University will continue to follow government advice and health directions. If any changes to the vaccination or testing policy are required in response to Queensland or Australian Government advice or directives, all staff and students will be notified.

What happens if my classes are online and I am not required to attend campus?

Students who study wholly online are exempt from the requirements of the Policy.

Will this policy apply to visitors, such as family or friends of mine who come on campus with me?

Visitors will be covered by a separate policy which will be released in due course.

Vaccination requirements – what to do

Where do I submit my proof of vaccination certificates?

Continuing students or students who have completed their pre-enrolment Questionnaire (PEQ) can submit their proof of vaccination via a tile on the home page of myGriffith. Commencing students who have not completed the PEQ will be able to submit their proof of vaccination certificate while completing the PEQ.

I've recently had COVID-19, do I still need my vaccinations?

The [procedure](#) has recently been updated to accommodate for recent infections. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 will need to provide proof of PCR/RAT confirmed infection of COVID-19 to be granted a temporary extension of four (4) weeks delay to their vaccination schedule. This time period is based on advice from Queensland Health. After that period, vaccination schedules will need to be resumed.

Will students or staff know if I have been vaccinated?

Your information is confidential and only staff managing the proof of vaccination process have access to the information. If you have concerns about your privacy, please refer to the Griffith University [Privacy Plan](#).

Why do I need to provide my COVID-19 vaccination certificate? Why can't I just show my "green tick of approval"?

Your vaccination certificate is required to enable the University to verify the vaccination date and vaccination type you have provided (or in the case of those with prior infection, the date of that infection or for those with a medical exemption, dates relating to medical contraindications).

Your vaccination certificate will not be retained by the University once it has been used for this verification purpose, unless it is required by law (for example in areas such as Health that are subject to the Government directive).

Manually sighting staff and students' vaccine 'green tick of approval' is not practical for the significant number of staff and students on campus at any point in time, and there is the risk of error with on-the-spot checks compared to the online automated process implemented by the University.

I live in New South Wales, but the University documentation relating to proof of vaccination refers only to Queensland Health. What should I do?

Normally the process for New South Wales and Queensland are similar. Use the correct process for the State in which you reside.

Will the University add boosters to fully vaccinated requirements?

At the moment, our definition of fully vaccinated requires just two doses. There is strong medical evidence to support the benefit of boosters, so the University may add this requirement in the future. For now, boosters are recommended but not required.

Due to the time required between the two doses, will students who have had one dose be excluded from campus until they are fully vaccinated?

Yes, if you are enrolled to study on campus, you cannot come to campus until you meet the requirements of the policy. You either need to be fully vaccinated, medically exempt from vaccination or choose to take part in the testing regime.

Am I able to go on placement if I am not vaccinated?

This depends on your placement and the requirements of your placement provider. If your placement is covered by a Public Health Direction or Order, or the provider independently requires vaccination, you cannot attend until you are fully vaccinated. Please speak to your placement officer to ensure you understand your requirements.

What do I do if I made an error, or submitted the incorrect document?

Contact the [IT Service Centre](#) who will be able to help you update your record.

Testing and Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

If I can't get hold of Rapid Antigen Tests, what should I do?

When you opt to participate in the testing regime, you should do everything reasonable and practicable to ensure you can conduct the testing. This will include ordering reasonable stocks in advance. At present, we realise stocks are limited. It is anticipated that availability will improve in the coming weeks. If stocks do not improve shortly before the policy comes into effect, we will issue further advice.

The Policy indicates that medically exempt students will be provided with Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) free of charge. Where do I go to get my supply of RATs?

We are yet to finalise plans for collection, but our plan is that you can confidentially collect them from a centralised location. We are working with our Health Centres to see if they can provide this service.

If I am participating in the testing regime, can I go anywhere on campus?

While you can come to campus if you are participating in the testing regime, there may be some areas on campus where you are not permitted. These areas are determined under public health directions and currently include cafes and food outlets on campus.

Will I be able to purchase a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) from Griffith? Is there any assistance with paying for the RATs?

If you choose to take part in the regular testing regime and you are not medically exempt from vaccination, you will need to source and buy your own Rapid Antigen Tests.

How is compliance with the testing regime monitored?

You may be asked for evidence of compliance with this testing regime in a form determined by the Provost. Evidence of compliance will generally be requested in the form of photographic evidence of the most recent test performed to be returned 24 hours after the request for evidence was made. As such, staff or students will only need to retain one image at any given time unless otherwise requested. Wherever practical, the University will use automated systems to confidentially record and track evidence of testing.

Refuse or cannot follow the policy

What happens if I choose not to disclose my vaccination status and do not consent to undertake regular COVID-19 testing?

Students who choose not to disclose their vaccination status, undertake regular testing or have an approved exemption should explore whether they can continue their studies online. If studies cannot be continued online, students will not be able to attend campus until they are fully vaccinated or agree to regular testing regime.

What should I do if I can't comply with the policy and would rather study online?

If you are enrolled in online classes, you do not need to do anything. If you need to change from on-campus to online classes or courses follow the steps below:

- Domestic students
- Login to [myGriffith](#).
- Select '[My Program](#)' from the main menu and click the red '[Manage enrolment](#)' button.
- Click the 'Drop course' button next to the course you wish to drop and confirm your decision.
- If you require further advice before dropping a course, please email us via [ask a question](#) or call [Student Connect](#).

- International students
- If you are an international student on a student visa, you must make an appointment with an [International Student Advisor](#) to discuss how a reduced study load will affect your student visa.

What happens if I have reason to believe another student is breaching the policy?

You may report your concerns, along with any evidence you may have, to [Your Call](#). The University will endeavour to investigate your report in line with standard procedures but may not, for confidentiality reasons, be able to provide you with details of the outcomes of the investigation.

I am a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidate – what should I do if I cannot comply with the policy?

As is the case with coursework students, HDR candidates who refuse or cannot comply with the policy will not be able to attend campus until they are fully vaccinated or agree to a regular testing regime.

In such circumstances, and where inability to attend campus will impact on progress in your candidature, you may wish to explore the following options:

- ***Explore with your supervisor possible variations to your research project***

If your inability to comply with the policy is temporary, you may wish to discuss with your Principal Supervisor potential variations to your project so you can continue to satisfactorily progress your candidature.

- ***Request a period of Leave of Absence until such time that you meet the requirements of the policy***

If your inability to comply with the policy is temporary, you may wish to consider [applying for Leave of Absence](#) from your HDR program for the period where you cannot comply. Being on leave means your candidature is 'paused', so your minimum and maximum submission dates will be adjusted and your access to resources such as supervisor/s, office space, library and computers will be suspended, as well your scholarship payments if you are a scholarship holder.

The option to take a Leave of Absence is also open to international HDR candidates, however there may be additional requirements due to visa implications that you will need to consider. Also, if you are a sponsored student, your sponsorship body will need to agree to this course of action.

If you can't find the answer you are looking for in the [policy](#), [procedures](#) or FAQs, please speak to your Principal Supervisor in the first instance. Policy-related queries should be directed to covid19policymanagement@griffith.edu.au.