

(Updated August 2021)

As we return to campus this September, it is our objective to provide a welcoming, safe and healthy learning environment. While the situation with COVID-19 has improved greatly allowing us to hold the majority of classes on campus for the first time in over a year, the new Delta variant has emerged as a concern largely to those who remain unvaccinated. In response to the rising number of cases of the Delta variant in Santa Clara County, **USV has implemented a policy requiring all students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus before the start of the Fall 2021 trimester.**

Vaccines have proven to be safe and effective protection ([Read more from the CDC](#)) and are widely available for free at pharmacies, hospitals and clinics. For information on where to get a vaccine go to: <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/> In addition to the three U.S. approved vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson), vaccines approved by the World Health Organization will be accepted. Students who are coming from outside the U.S. are strongly encouraged to get a vaccine approved for use in the United States.

Next Steps

- USV has distributed a mandatory attestation form regarding vaccination status to all students, faculty, and staff. The form must be completed and submitted, along with documentation of at least one dose of the vaccination before returning to campus for work or classes.
- Vaccination exemptions may be granted for those individuals with documented medical exemptions and sincerely held cultural or religious beliefs, practices or observances preventing them from getting the vaccination. Individuals with approved exemptions will be required to social distance and wear a mask while on campus in addition to providing weekly evidence of a negative COVID-19 test results.
- Anyone who is not vaccinated, has not received an exemption, or scheduled an appointment to be vaccinated within the next 7 days, will not be permitted on campus to attend classes or for any other reason.
- In accordance with this University policy, those who have indicated that they are not vaccinated or have declined to state, will be required to comply with the following:
 - Undergo weekly COVID testing with results reported to USV by 10:00 AM every Monday morning
 - Vaccination Status or COVID Test results may be submitted online
 - **Students:** <https://usv.edu/self-certification-of-vaccination-status-form-for-students>
 - **Faculty/Staff:** <https://usv.edu/self-certification-of-vaccination-status-form-2/>
 - Testing is at your own expense and is not reimbursable
 - Testing must be conducted on your own time (e.g., not during scheduled work or class time)
 - You are responsible for coordinating your test timing to meet the weekly deadline
 - If your results are not received by 10:00 AM each Monday, you will not be allowed on campus until received
 - If your vaccination status changes, please notify the Dean of Students or HR immediately
 - **Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension, dismissal, or termination**

Our highest priority is the health and safety of our USV community. The USV COVID-19 Task Force and University leadership will closely monitor updates provided by the Santa Clara County Health Care Agency and communicate with students, faculty, and staff. By mandating the vaccination and practicing health and safety protection measures, we will be able to better protect each other, our loved ones, and our neighbors.

If you have questions or concerns, please email us at one of the following:

- For students: Carolus Brown, Dean of Students cbrown@usv.edu.
- For faculty and staff: Leslie Anderson, Director of Human Resources at landerson@usv.edu.