

Student COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 23, 2021

To: GIA Carlsbad, CA and New York, NY students

From: GIA Education

Re: COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

Dear Student,

GIA's primary goal is to protect the health and safety of our campus community to the fullest extent possible. In an effort to enable our students, staff, and faculty to engage more holistically in all aspects of campus life, GIA will continue to make safety its primary consideration in the decision-making process and, as such, will rely on the most up-to-date scientific information available to make informed decisions regarding its operations.

Effective August 19, 2021, in New York, NY, and September 1, 2021, in Carlsbad, CA, all students attending a GIA campus must be [fully vaccinated](#) for COVID-19. Students are required to submit official documentation of vaccination two weeks prior to arrival on campus. Official documentation must include the name of the vaccine and vaccination dates. A seat in class is not guaranteed until the vaccination documentation is reviewed and approved by GIA school officials. This requirement is based on GIA's review of the latest conditions and developments around vaccination against the Coronavirus. Additionally, vaccinations are encouraged by federal, county, state and national public health officials, and there is an increase in vaccine supply and greater availability of vaccination appointments in the United States.

International students who are unable to obtain full vaccination in their country of residence may receive the approved Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (1 dose) vaccine in the United States, at least two weeks prior to arriving on campus.

Please follow the instructions below for submitting proof of vaccination document based on your current status:

- Accepted Students with Upcoming Classes:
 - Submit documentation via a secured Kiteworks folder. Contact admissions@gia.edu in Carlsbad or nyadmissions@gia.edu in New York to request access to this secure upload folder.
- New Applicants:
 - Upload documentation to Application portal.

Accepted documentation includes one of the following:

- CDC Vaccination Card
- CA Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record
- NY Excelsior Pass
- World Health Organization Yellow Book
- Official documentation from a medical provider

Fully vaccinated students who provide proof of their vaccination status will be issued an orange Good-To-Go (GTG) card, which must be worn visibly at all times while on campus.

Students who choose not to obtain vaccines for medical or religious reasons are required to request an exemption by submitting the COVID vaccination exemption form. Approval of the exemption is not guaranteed, and students who do not obtain the approval will forfeit their seat in class. The completed exemption request form must be submitted and approved prior to arrival on campus. GIA requires up to ten business days to review and approve exemption requests.

GIA will recognize individuals as fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the complete dose(s) of the vaccines listed below that have been issued under an emergency use authorization (EUA) by the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) or an emergency use listing (EUL) by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#).

U.S. Vaccines with an FDA EUA (this list will be updated as new vaccines are approved) include:

- Comirnaty - Pfizer-BioNTech (2 doses)
- Moderna (2 doses)
- Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (1 dose)

In addition to those above, other international vaccines with a WHO EUL (this list will be updated as new vaccines are approved) include:

- AstraZeneca (EU) (2 doses)
- AstraZeneca/SKBio (South Korea) (2 doses)
- Covishield - Serum Institute of India (2 doses)
- Covilo - Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products/Sinopharm (1 dose)
- CoronaVac – Sinovac (1 dose)

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) currently considers people to be fully vaccinated if they are two weeks post the final dose of these vaccines.

NOTE: International students may not travel to the United States until they have the I-20MN and the applicable nonimmigrant student visa stamp (M-1) in their passport. Students from Canada or Bermuda must have the applicable M-1 visa status. Please see [Carlsbad Catalog](#) pages 35-36 or [New York Catalog](#) pages 29-30 for additional information on nonimmigrant visa requirements. As per the [Student and Exchange Visitor Information System \(SEVIS\)](#) guidelines, students on M-1 visa cannot arrive in the U.S. more than 30-days from the program start date indicated on the I-20.

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for additional information and guidance.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,

GIA Education

Additional Resources:

FAQs

Request for Medical Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccination Form

Request for Religious Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccine (Personal Statement) Form

Request for Religious Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccine (Religious Organization Statement) Form

FAQs

These frequently asked questions may be helpful to GIA's international students currently outside of the U.S. who are making plans to come or return to school. GIA will continue to update the FAQs as more information becomes available.

What are the current COVID-19 specific travel requirements for international students?

Please see [CDC's website](#) for the most up-to-date guidance on International Travel During COVID-19.

I was unable to get vaccinated at home. Can I be vaccinated when I arrive in the US? Will I need to quarantine?

International students who are unable to obtain full vaccination in their country of residence may receive the approved Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (1 dose) vaccine in the United States, at least two weeks prior to arriving on campus.

Please note, international students may not travel to the United States until they have the I-20MN and the applicable nonimmigrant student visa stamp (M-1) in their passport. Students from Canada or Bermuda must have the applicable M-1 visa status. Please see [Carlsbad Catalog](#) or [New York Catalog](#) for additional information on nonimmigrant visa requirements. As per the [Student and Exchange Visitor Information System \(SEVIS\)](#) guidelines, students on M-1 visa cannot arrive in the U.S. more than 30-days from the program start date indicated on the I-20.

If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?

According to CDC, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. Please visit CDC's website for [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#) for additional information.

I received a COVID-19 vaccine in another country (not one of the approved in the U.S. or by the WHO). Should I be re-vaccinated in the US?

GIA will keep the community updated on CDC guidelines regarding international vaccines. We will assist international students in complying with GIA's requirements, as appropriate. Those who received international vaccines may be asked to re-vaccinate based on CDC guidance.

GIA will recognize individuals as fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the complete dose(s) of the vaccines listed below that have been issued under an emergency use authorization (EUA) by the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) or an emergency use listing (EUL) by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#).

U.S. Vaccines with an FDA EUA (this list will be updated as new vaccines are approved) include:

- Comirnaty - Pfizer-BioNTech (2 doses)
- Moderna (2 doses)
- Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (1 dose)

In addition to those above, other international vaccines with a WHO EUL (this list will be updated as new vaccines are approved) include:

- AstraZeneca (EU) (2 doses)
- AstraZeneca/SKBio (South Korea) (2 doses)

- Covishield - Serum Institute of India (2 doses)
- Covilo - Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products/Sinopharm (1 dose)
- CoronaVac – Sinovac (1 dose)

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) currently considers people to be fully vaccinated if they are two weeks post the final dose of these vaccines.

Will GIA hold a vaccination clinic?

At this time, GIA does not have plans to hold special vaccination clinics.

How will GIA store my vaccination record?

Student records are retained in accordance with federal, state and accreditation requirements. The care and protection of student data are of utmost importance. GIA maintains a comprehensive global privacy policy that may be found on our website at [GIA.edu/privacy-policy](#) Student vaccination records will be maintained in accordance with GIA's privacy policy and procedures.

I have more questions about my specific situation; where can I get more information?

You can send your questions to the Dean of Student at deanstudents@gia.edu in Carlsbad or School Director at nyedudirector@gia.edu in New York. You can also visit our website at <https://www.gia.edu/coronavirus-update> for the most up-to-date COVID-19 information, including campus operations, travel and quarantine requirements.

Request for Medical Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccination Form

Student Name:

Course/Program of Study:

Student Number:

Course or Program Start Date:

Campus: Carlsbad, CA New York, NY

Method of Study: On Campus Lab Class Student Workroom

As a requirement of enrollment, effective August 19, 2021, in New York and September 1, 2021, in Carlsbad, all students must be [fully vaccinated](#) for COVID-19. Students may request a medical or religious exemption from COVID-19 vaccination:

- A medical exemption may be granted upon receipt of a completed form (below) not more than six months old, signed and certified by a licensed healthcare provider, and whose specialty is appropriate to the associated condition. Medical exemptions expire when the medical condition(s) contraindicating COVID-19 vaccination changes in a manner that permits vaccination. The assigned expiration is at the sole determination of GIA.
- A religious exemption may be granted if (i) the individual holds sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of vaccination, (ii) completes this form, and (iii) provides the required documentation to support the exemption request. GIA is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive experience for all and recognizes true and genuine observance of faith pertaining to immunization practice.

Individuals with an approved exemption will be required to comply with GIA’s safety protocols, including but not limited to social distancing and wearing masks. In the event of an outbreak on or near campus, individuals holding exemptions may be excluded from all campus facilities and activities for their protection until the outbreak is declared to be over.

The dean of students or the school director will review exemption requests, though approval is not guaranteed. After a request has been reviewed and processed, students will be notified in writing within ten business days of the outcome of their request. If the approved exemption contains an expiration, students will be expected to complete the requirement at that time. Should the condition continue, or a new vaccination contraindication occurs, or the current exemption expires, a new request with updated documentation is required. Decisions are final and not subject to appeal. Individuals are permitted to reapply if new documentation and information should become available.

In order to submit a request, please:

- **Complete the following page of this form;**
- **If requesting a medical exemption, have your Licensed Health Care Provider complete the provider section of this form;**

- **If requesting a religious exemption, complete the Personal Statement Form below and/or have your religious leader complete the Religious Organization Statement Form**
- **Submit the completed documents**

Note: Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed. Be sure all forms and documentation are submitted at one time.

Initial next to each of the statements below:

	I request exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination requirements due to my current medical condition . I understand and assume the risks of non-vaccination. I accept full responsibility for my health, thus removing liability from GIA to the required vaccination.
	I understand that as I am not vaccinated, in order to protect my own health and the health of the community, I will comply with additional COVID-19 safety protocols and other preventive guidance issued by GIA.
	I understand that I may be temporarily excluded from GIA facilities and approved in the event of an outbreak or threatened outbreak. I agree to comply with these restrictions and accept responsibility for communicating with instructors and school officials as appropriate to allow compliance with health and safety requirements for unvaccinated individuals. I further understand that restrictions from GIA facilities, including but not limited to classes, do not entitle me to any reduction in tuition or other fees.
	Should I contract COVID-19, I will immediately report it to GIA by contacting the Dean of Students at deanstudents@gia.edu in Carlsbad or School Director at nyedudirector@gia.edu in New York and comply with all isolation and quarantine procedures specified by GIA.
	I understand that this exemption will expire when the medical condition(s) contraindicating vaccination changes in a manner that permits vaccination.
	I understand and agree to comply with and abide by all GIA COVID-19 policies and procedures.
	I understand that this exemption is only valid for the approved period, and I may need to submit a new request for any subsequent changes, new medical contraindications, or on expiration of an approved exemption.
	I authorize my licensed health care provider to provide GIA with medical information about my medical exemption for the COVID-19 vaccination.
	I certify that the information I have provided on and in connection with this request is accurate and complete as of the date of this submission. I understand this exemption may be revoked, and I may be subject to GIA disciplinary action if any false information has been used to request an exemption.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

