



Board of Regents

AGENDA & NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Conducted Via Remote Participation

Meeting will stream live at: <https://youtu.be/oteF5Mq4j2E>

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Remarks - Board of Regents Chair JoAnn Ryan**
4. **Action Item - Suspension of COVID-19 Immunization Requirements for Students**
5. **Adjourn**

ITEM

The Board of Regents for Higher Education adopts a resolution to amend its Policy regarding COVID-19 Immunization Requirements for Students approved June 24, 2021.

BACKGROUND

During its meeting on June 24, 2021, the Board of Regents adopted a policy mandating that all students participating in any on-campus activity at a BOR governed institution be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This action was taken in response the public health state of emergency declared by Governor Lamont on March 10, 2020, which was followed by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approving emergency use authorization for COVID-19 vaccine. However, since that time, the executive orders to control the disease have been lifted and all COVID-19 related safety protocols implemented as a result of the disease are no longer in effect.

ANALYSIS

During Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters the State of Connecticut was operating under Executive Orders issued as a result of the public health state of emergency and a Memorandum of Agreement with BOR managed collective bargaining units. The institutions abided by the various Executive Orders that were in place which included various COVID-19 safety protocols and requirements. These requirements also included mandatory vaccination for all State employees.

In response to the success of the mitigation efforts the General Assembly lifted the remaining executive orders during Spring 2022. The General Assembly's enactment included removing mandatory masking requirements, social distancing and mandatory vaccination for state employees. As state facilities the CSCU also removed masking, vaccination status attestations and other requirements as allowed by state law. Consequently, mitigation strategies impacting the CSCU were phased out during the Spring 2022 as well.

The requirement to vaccinate students was created by BOR policy in its authority to oversee the colleges and universities and provide for the health and wellbeing of the campus communities. Now, there is no executive order or state law requiring the CSCU to continue to mandate that students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 nor is there a mechanism to monitor their status. However, due to the unpredictable nature of the virus, the Board may want to maintain its ability to require vaccination should the need arise again. This may be accomplished by amending the policy to provide that the policy is in effect to comport with executive orders issued by the Governor pursuant to his authority over public health.

While the vaccine mandate will be suspended, other efforts under the authority bestowed by the BOR to the CSCU President, will be in place on the campuses to educate and address the spread of the virus. In particular, CSCU will continue to encourage that all students and employees be vaccinated and stay current with boosters as eligible. All CSCU institutions will follow CDC guidance on community risk levels and educational efforts will continue with materials from the CDC and DPH on the latest variants and ways to mitigate the spread of the virus. CSCU will monitor guidance from these agencies as the school year progresses, share relevant updates with campus leadership and the CSCU community, and make changes if needed in our approach.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Regents for Higher Education amend the Policy regarding COVID-19 Immunization Requirements for Students to suspend its use until such time that the Governor issues executive orders requiring further efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

CT BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

concerning

Policy Regarding

SUSPENSION OF COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

August 10, 2022

WHEREAS, all of the Governor's Executive Orders related to the Public Health Emergency declaration beginning March 10, 2020 were lifted by the Connecticut General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut General Assembly, enacted Special Act 22-1 to address the orderly removal of COVID-19 safety protocols such as masking, social distancing, mandatory vaccination of State employees and other COVID-19 related measures by no later than June 30, 2022 for all purposes; and

WHEREAS, as public institutions, the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities have abided by the state's enactment in lessening its COVID-19 related restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the above referenced student vaccination policy amendment does not lessen the authorization of the CSCU President to create and promulgate COVID-19 mitigation requirements, for employees, vendors, visitors and others to ensure the health and safety of everyone who frequents a BOR controlled property; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Policy regarding COVID-19 Immunization Requirements for Students is hereby amended to suspend its use until such time that executive orders concerning mitigation strategies are issued.

A True Copy:

Alice Pritchard, Secretary of the
CT Board of Regents for Higher Education

BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
POLICY REGARDING
COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

Statement Of Purpose

The Board of Regents for Higher Education (“BOR”) is committed to reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among students within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (“CSCU”) and promoting the health and safety of the community consistent with federal, state and local efforts to minimize outbreaks of COVID-19.

Scope

All students who participate in any on- campus activities in person for any reason at any of the institutions comprising the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.

Policy

All students participating in any on-campus activity at a BOR governed institution are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Students are required to report vaccination compliance to the college or university they physically attend.

International students shall be considered in compliance with the COVID-19 vaccine requirement if they have been vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine that has either been authorized for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or been authorized for use outside of the United States by the World Health Organization (WHO). International students must present proof of vaccination in the form of a copy of the WHO Certificate of Vaccination (WHO Vaccine Booklet) or documentation to include a statement signed by a healthcare provider/organization authorized to administer the vaccination attesting to the dates and name of COVID-19 vaccination given. All documentation must be submitted in English or accompanied by a certified translation at the student’s expense. International students who have received COVID-19 vaccines not authorized by the FDA or WHO will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

Students who receive an exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement or who are not fully vaccinated prior to the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester will be required to comply with preventative measures as deemed necessary by the university or college. Such measures may include, but not be limited to, a period of modified quarantine, surveillance testing, and mask-wearing.

Exemptions from this policy will be permitted under certain circumstances. To request an exemption, a student must complete the form [found here for medical exemptions](#) and [here for non-medical exemptions](#).

The institutions are authorized to enact rules and/or procedures necessary to effectuate this policy.

Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy may result in loss of privileges and/or sanctions.

Effective Date

This policy shall become effective upon approval of the BOR. This policy and any attendant procedures and/or rules may be amended as necessary based on factors such as the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic, guidance from governmental authorities, and whether there are executive orders addressing mitigation strategies for the disease.