



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MANDATORY VACCINATION

Why is vaccination now mandatory?

The health and safety of our university community is our top priority. Every decision we make aligns with public health guidelines. At the dawn of a fourth wave, it is even more important to have everybody vaccinated so that we can enhance our collective immunization against COVID-19 and the variants that are emerging. New variants and the lower vaccination rates in the age group of 18-39, compel us to act in the interest of health and safety for all. Moreover, taking this decision now will allow our students, faculty, and staff sufficient time to receive their first dose (by September 8) before the fall term is in full swing

What are the criteria for receiving an accommodation?

The University will consider requests for accommodation for students, faculty, staff, and visitors who cannot be vaccinated on medical or other grounds recognized by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Students, faculty, and staff must submit their requests for accommodation no later than September 7, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

For students

Your request must be submitted to the registrar's office.

For employees

Your request must be submitted to Human Resources at rh-hr@ustpaul.ca.

Please note that with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, the position of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has been that a singular belief or personal preference against vaccinations and/or masks is not protected on the basis of creed under the *Code*.

What options are available for students who do not want to get vaccinated?

We strongly suggest you reconsider. There are no good reasons to refuse vaccination except for valid medical reasons or on the basis of religion or creed. Anyone who can get vaccinated should do so. Vaccines save lives: science is unambiguous about this fact. We strongly suggest that you consult the Ottawa Public Health COVID-19 FAQ to obtain information regarding why vaccines are so strongly recommended.

The University will offer online classes for most programs during the entire 2021-2022 academic year. We will do our best to work with students to find online alternatives to in-person classes. Unless you are vaccinated or granted an accommodation, online learning will be your only option. If online learning is not available for your program or parts of your program, it might be impossible to provide alternatives, which could result in a delay in the completion of your program.

Will you implement testing for students, faculty, staff, and visitors who are required to do so?

Testing will not be required for individuals who are vaccinated and whose COVID-19 Vaccination Declaration is complete.

However, as of September 8, 2021, testing will be required, at least once per seven-day period here on campus, and available only for the following individuals:

Rapid testing is the responsibility of the individual.

What happens if I refuse to get vaccinated and my presence is still required on campus?

Accommodations will only be considered for individuals who cannot be vaccinated on medical or other grounds recognized by the Ontario Human Rights Code

Will individuals still need to complete the daily health check-in before coming to campus if I completed the declaration certification process or carry my proof of vaccination with me?

Yes, before attending campus each day, students, faculty, staff, and visitors must complete the [COVID-19 Daily Health-Check-In](#) online tool before coming on campus. It is an Ontario Government requirement for all workplaces in Ontario.

Do I still need to wear a mask after I am fully vaccinated?

Currently, the requirement to wear a mask inside our buildings still stands. All public health guidelines such as wearing a mask, social distancing, and frequent hand washing remain in effect.