

OCS STUDENT VACCINATION REQUIREMENT for STUDENTS 12 YEARS OLD AND OLDER

- **By when does my child need to be fully vaccinated?**

In order to attend Ocean Charter School on Jan.10, 2022 and onward, all students 12 years and older must either be fully vaccinated* or have an approved medical exemption or approved personal belief exemption on file with the school.

- **Who is required to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

All students 12 years old and older are required to be fully vaccinated by January 10, 2022, excluding those with approved medical exemptions or approved personal belief exemptions.

- **What happens if my student does not get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Beginning Monday, January 10, 2022, students 12 and older who do not have proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or an approved medical or personal belief exemption will not be permitted on school campus.

- **How much will the COVID-19 vaccine cost?**

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to all at no cost, regardless of insurance or immigration status.

- **Why is OCS mandating student vaccinations?**

Ocean Charter School is working to ensure the highest-quality instruction in the safest environment possible for all students. Strong scientific evidence shows that vaccinations are an essential part of protecting our communities. Read more at <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/148/2/e2021052336>.

- **Where can I take my student to get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Unvaccinated students are encouraged to visit one of many vaccine site options: City, County, or Federal Clinics; family pediatricians, local pharmacies and other healthcare providers;. You can see more information on the County options at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/vaccine/hcwsignup/>.

- **Has the student vaccine requirement been extended to students ages 5-11?**

No. The COVID-19 vaccine is highly encouraged for children ages 5-11. However, it is not part of Ocean Charter School's student vaccine requirement at this time.

- **Can my student still attend school if they do not get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Beginning Monday, January 10, 2022, students 12 years old and older who do not have proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 or an approved medical or personal belief exemption on file with the school will not be able to attend school at OCS until they meet the vaccination requirement. If they live in LAUSD boundaries, they may enroll in the City of Angels LAUSD Independent Study Program.

- **What enrollment options exist for my student if they decline the vaccine?**

If your family lives within LAUSD boundaries, students may enroll in the District's online independent study program offered through City of Angels.

- **Can my student participate in in-person extracurricular activities (eg sports, after school programs, district sponsored events) if they are not fully vaccinated?**

Your child will not be permitted to participate in in-person extracurricular activities without proof of vaccination. Extracurricular activity is a program that takes place outside of the instructional day that is supervised or financed by the school where students represent the school.

- **Will my student be required to get booster shots?**

At this time, Ocean Charter is not requiring booster shots.

- **Do all of the COVID-19 vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson) fulfill the requirement?**

Currently, students must receive the Pfizer vaccine if they are under the age of 18.

What if my student got vaccinated in another country?

If a student got vaccinated in another country, please submit the vaccination record to the registrar at registrar@oceancs.org for verification.

- **Does my student need to carry their vaccine card with them at all times?**

No. Students should upload their vaccine card and information into Fever Free. Instructions for how to upload can be found [here](#).

- **By when does my student need to get vaccinated?**

In order to be fully vaccinated by Jan. 10, 2022 with the 2 week period to follow to ensure maximum immunity, your child must receive their first Pfizer dose at the latest by Dec. 6, 2021 and the second on Dec. 27th.

- **What does “Fully-Vaccinated” mean?**

“Fully-vaccinated” refers to an individual who has received the first and second doses of the vaccine and has completed the two-week period that follows to ensure maximum immunity.

- **My student turns 12 after Monday, January 10. How much time do we have to be fully vaccinated?**

Students who are newly eligible will have 30 days after their 12th birthday to get their first dose, and must get their second vaccine dose no later than 8 weeks after their 12th birthday.

- **Will this requirement change regular testing requirements?**

At present, OCS plans to continue to test all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status on a weekly basis.

- **What do I do if I have lost my vaccination card?**

If a student has lost their vaccine record, they can get a digital record at <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov>.

- **What is a medical exemption and where can I find the right form?**

A medical exemption is completed by a child's physician and parents. The form is on the OCS website and can be found [here](#). This is the only form that OCS will accept for medical exemptions. It must be completed fully and submitted to the registrar at registrar@oceancs.org for review. Incomplete forms or exemptions submitted on other forms will be returned to parents. If parents submit a complete form on the OCS form and it is approved by the nurse, parents will be informed via email that it has been approved and is on file for their child.

- **Are there religious exemptions for students?**

At this time, OCS is accepting personal belief exemptions. Parents must use the OCS personal belief exemption form on our website and found [here](#). It must be completed fully and submitted to the registrar at registrar@oceancs.org. Incomplete forms or personal belief exemptions submitted on other forms will be returned to parents. If parents submit a complete form on the OCS form and it is approved, parents will be notified via email that it has been approved and is on file for their child.

- **Who can my child talk to if they have concerns?**

If a child has concerns, they can talk to their pediatrician or healthcare provider. School counselors are also available to speak with a child upon request.

- **What if my child has a reaction to the vaccine and has to stay home from school?**

Most common reactions to the vaccine include redness/swelling at the vaccine site, fever and muscle aches/body aches. Most symptoms resolve within 48-72 hours. If a child has a reaction to the vaccine, they may take excused absences with the ability to make up their schoolwork for full credit.

- **Is OCS giving vaccinations on campus?**

At this time, OCS is not offering a vaccination clinic on campus so no students can be vaccinated on site.

- **Do students need parental consent to be vaccinated?**

Yes. With limited exceptions for emancipated minors and others legally permitted to self-consent, students age 12-17 will not be vaccinated without written consent from a parent or legal guardian. Los Angeles Unified's vaccination consent form for minors can be found [here](#).

- **Will these policies apply to students under 12 when they are authorized?**

At this time, we are awaiting review of the data from the CDC and the FDA and will make a decision after talking with our partners at the public health department and other medical institutions.

- **Why is Los Angeles Unified mandating vaccinations for students in extracurriculars earlier than other students?**

We made the decision to require students participating in all extra-curricular activities to be vaccinated at an earlier date because extra-curriculars mean additional exposure. Students who participate in activities beyond their core classes have extra contacts, they interact with additional students and adults which puts them at greater risk.

- **If my child has already had COVID-19, do they still need to be vaccinated? Why?**

While getting COVID-19 may offer some natural immunity from reinfection, it is not clear how long the immunity lasts. Because your child can still get reinfected with COVID-19 and have medical complications, the CDC recommends that those who have had COVID-19 get the COVID-19 vaccine. If your child received monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19, it is recommended to wait 90 days before getting vaccinated.

- **What is acceptable proof of COVID-19 vaccination for OCS' verification process?**

Acceptable proof includes any of the following: CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (White Card), CDC Covid-19 QR code, World Health Organization Vaccine Record Card (Yellow Card), documentation of vaccination from a healthcare provider or entity that provided the COVID-19 vaccines, or a California Immunization Registry Vaccination Record. The name on the document must match the individual's name.

- **What action do I have to take if my eligible student is considered conditionally admitted?**

Children who are experiencing homelessness, in the foster care system, in a military family, migrant, or who have an IEP qualify for conditional admissions. These students or their parents/guardians do not have to take any action to let us know they have these statuses, as it is already in our data system. Note that a conditional admission is not an exemption, and a recurring effort is made by the school nursing team to support the child and family to receive a vaccination in a timely manner.