

The University of New Mexico-Taos



COVID-19 Information, Policy, Resources & Discussion Guide

For Faculty and Staff



Protect the Pack. bringbackthepack.unm.edu

OVERVIEW

This directory was compiled to assist UNM-Taos staff and faculty with responding to student questions and concerns regarding UNM's vaccine mandate policy, and the return to campus for the Fall 2021 semester.

We have a team that is calling enrolled students so they are aware of the mandate and their options. If we have missed some and they want support/information or assistance please contact Cami Hartman chartman8@unm.edu or call 575-737-3697.

DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES IN THIS GUIDE

Section 1: UNM-Taos Quick Guide to COVID-19

Links to campus policies, local vaccine clinics & testing resources, trusted information sources.

SECTION 2: UNM/ UNM-TAOS CAMPUS POLICIES & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Depository of relevant websites, policies, and related exemption forms, and trusted community resource pages

SECTION 1: QUICK GUIDE TO COVID-19

Vaccine & Testing Policies and Resources

Please note: We CANNOT directly ask if a student is vaccinated or not. We CAN inform them of the policy and connect them to resources.

MESSAGING - RESPONDING TO CONCERNS

How do I respond if a student is confused, anxious, upset, fearful, angry, frustrated, etc?

The COVID pandemic has resulted in unprecedented amounts of misinformation that the US Surgeon General has declared as “a serious threat to public health”. Together with other mental health impacts of the pandemic, student concerns are understandable *and* need to be addressed. Fortunately, there are evidence-based tools and strategies for effectively responding to misinformation and vaccine hesitancy (the reluctance or refusal to be vaccinated.) Here are highlights of recommendations from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - you can find more detail in Section 3 of this Guide, along with other great tools:

- **Listen to their questions with empathy.** COVID-19 vaccines are new, and it’s normal for people to have questions about them. The sheer amount of information—and misinformation—about COVID-19 vaccines can be overwhelming to anyone. You can help by listening without judgment and identifying the root of their concerns.
- **Ask open-ended questions to explore their concerns.** Open-ended questions are meant to elicit more than a yes-or-no answer. Asking open-ended questions can help you understand what someone is worried about, where they learned any troubling information, and what they have done to get answers to their questions. Do not be judgmental and respectfully ask questions that help you understand their concerns.
- **Ask permission to share information** Once you understand someone’s question or concern, ask if you can provide some information, tell them where you get information you trust and be careful not to push information on them.
- **Help them find their own reason to get vaccinated.** Everyone who chooses to get vaccinated does it for a reason – to protect their family, their children, to be less anxious, to visit partners, to get back to activities like school, work, and seeing friends. After addressing concerns with empathy, respect, and facts, you can steer the conversation from “why not” to the important reasons that matter to them – their “why”.
- **Help make their vaccination happen.** Once someone decides on their “why,” help them make a commitment to get vaccinated. Help make the path to vaccination shorter, easier, and less stressful for them. As a trusted messenger, you can play a role in their decision to vaccinate.

UNM VACCINE POLICY INFORMATION

The University of New Mexico will require that all faculty, staff and students accessing University facilities and programs be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 as soon as possible, **but no later than September 30, 2021.**

This mandate requires all UNM faculty, staff and students who access campus facilities, housing, programs, services, and activities in person to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, subject to limited exemptions. This mandate was endorsed by the UNM Board of Regents on August 5, 2021, and went into effect on that date.

The University of New Mexico permits accommodations to this mandate, based on qualifying disabilities or serious medical conditions, or for the religious observances, beliefs, and practices of its students and employees.

Where I can I find more information on UNM's COVID-19 vaccine requirement?

Visit this site and follow the instructions:

<https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/vaccine/vaccine-requirement.html>

How do I upload proof of vaccination?

Visit this site and follow the instructions:

<https://lobocheckin.unm.edu/checkin/svpfa/24>

How do I apply for an UNM validated exemption?

If you believe you qualify for an exemption follow the steps below:

1. Visit: <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/vaccine/vaccine-requirement-exemption-forms.html>_You can also find the forms in Section II of this Guide.
2. Identify the appropriate form for your request
3. Complete the appropriate form **in its entirety**. Incomplete forms will be rejected and your request may be denied as a result.
4. Once your form is completed, visit the UNM COVID-19 Vaccine Verification page: <https://lobocheckin.unm.edu/checkin/svpfa/24>
5. 5. Follow the instructions at the Vaccine Verification site and upload your forms to complete your exemption request.

What is the FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) exemption and how do I apply?

While available vaccines are under EUA, UNM employees and students may request a temporary exemption to this vaccination mandate. Such employees and students will be subject to regular COVID testing, requiring that upon demand they produce documentation of a negative COVID-19 test within 7-days of such request, with the sample having been collected within 7-days of submission of said documentation. Once any vaccine for COVID-19 is available under regular FDA License, the Temporary EUA Exemption will no longer be available.

1. Go to <https://lobocheckin.unm.edu/checkin/svpfa/24>
You can also find the forms in Section II of this Guide
2. Select: Not vaccinated – request a temporary exception and agree to submit to regular COVID testing.

VACCINE INCENTIVES

What about about cash incentives for getting vaccinated?

Both UNM and the NM Department of Health currently have vaccine incentive programs in place through the end of August 2021:

- \$100 from UNM for current students:**
For students registered for Fall 2021: upload proof of your COVID-19 vaccination—whether you get your shot now, or received it months ago—and UNM will transfer \$100 onto your bursar’s account. It’s that easy. See details at <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/protecting-the-pack/vax-the-pack.html> and <https://lobocheckin.unm.edu/checkin/svpfa/22>.
- \$1000 drawing for Main and Branch campus employees (offer ends Aug.31):**
Upload proof of your COVID-19 vaccination, and you’ll be automatically entered into a drawing for one of fifty \$1,000 prizes. See details and upload at <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/protecting-the-pack/vax-the-pack.html> and <https://lobocheckin.unm.edu/checkin/svpfa/22>.
- \$100 from NM Department of Health (offer ends Aug.31):**
Get \$100 for getting your COVID shot. Any dose at any location counts. Sign up today at www.vaccinenm.org. If you are under 18, cash will be disbursed to a parent/guardian. For further questions or technical support uploading documents call the Department of Health COVID Hotline: 1-855-600-3453

VACCINE RESOURCES IN TAOS

Where can I get a COVID vaccine in Taos?

Vaccination is free and readily available near you. You need to register through the NM Department of Health to select a location and appointment. For further questions or technical support uploading documents, or with registering online, call the Department of Health COVID Hotline: 1-855-600-3453

Go to: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org> to register for the vaccine and find a vaccination site. Vaccine sites in Taos County include:

- UNM-Taos**, in collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Health and New Mexico Higher Education Department, will be hosting two vaccination clinics on campus. These clinics are open to the public, ages 12 and up: **Friday, September 3**, 11 am-1 pm | UNM-Taos Klauer Campus
- St. James Episcopal Church, St. James parking lot.** Community Vaccination Clinic will be held **Thursday, August 26**
11:30 am - 2:30 pm.
208 Camino Santiago, Taos, NM
575-758-2790
- Holy Cross Medical Center**
Every Wednesday 1-3pm (thru September).
Register on vaccinenm.com
1397 Weimer Rd., Taos, NM
575-759-8883
- El Centro Family Health**
1331 Gusdorf Rd.
Call 575-758-3601 for available vaccine site or call Embudo (505-579-4255) and Peñasco (575-587-2205)

5. **Taos VA Clinic**
1353 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur
575-751-0328
Veterans eligible for the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesdays.
6. **Taos Public Health Office**
Thursdays. Register online at cvvaccines.nmhealth.org
1400 Weimer rd., Taos, NM
575-758-4719
7. **You can also check** with your primary care provider, pharmacy, or Indian Health Service Unit for vaccine availability.

TESTING RESOURCES IN TAOS

Where can I get free COVID test?

Vaccination is readily available near you. Visit: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org> to register and find a vaccination site.

As of Monday, August 16, 2021, COVID-19 testing is available at the following locations. **Information changes rapidly. Please call ahead to confirm!**

1. **Taos Public Health Office**
1400 Weimer rd., Taos, NM
Mondays 9-10am
Register on <http://cvtestreg.nmhealth.org/>
575-758-2073
2. **El Centro Family Health**
1331 Gusdorf Rd.,
Mon - Fri, 9a - 2p.
575-758-3601
El Centro also has clinics in Embudo (505-579-4255) and Peñasco (575-587-2205)
3. **At-home Vault testing**
This is a saliva test sponsored by vault and Department of Health (results in 24-48 hours after testing). You administer it at home with support from a healthcare professional from Vault online at <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nm/>
4. **Taos Pueblo**
Taos Pueblo Health & Community Services
230 Rotten Tree Rd
575-758-7824
5. You can also check your local pharmacy to purchase a test kit over-the-counter.

SECTION 2: UNM/ UNM-TAOS CAMPUS POLICIES & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Depository of relevant websites, policies, and related exemption forms, and trusted community resource pages

UNM Bringing Back the Pack

<https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/>

UNM COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement Policy

<https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/vaccine/vaccine-requirement.html>

UNM COVID-19 Vaccine Verification (to upload your proof of vaccination)

<https://lobocheckin.unm.edu/checkin/svpfa/24>

UNM Request for Vaccine Exemptions (Disability/Medical/Religious/Remote Work)

<https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/vaccine/vaccine-requirement-exemption-forms.html>

UNM Request for Temporary Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Exemption

<https://lobocheckin.unm.edu/checkin/svpfa/24>

- Log in to the system and then select "Not vaccinated.
- Request a temporary exception and agree to submit to regular COVID testing"
- complete the required fields.

UNM Vaccine Incentives (for Employees and Students)

<https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/vaccine/vaccine-requirement-exemption-forms.html>

UNM Vaccine Mandate FAQs

<https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/vaccine/fag/index.html>

COVID Safe Workplace Protocols <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/worksites-protocols/additional-details.html>

UNM Bringing Back the Pack

<http://www.unm.edu/coronavirus/>

UNM-Health Sciences Center COVID page

<https://hsc.unm.edu/covid-19/>

TRUSTED COMMUNITY COVID-19 RESOURCES

Taos Community COVID Medical Task Force

<https://www.taoscovidtaskforce.com>

Reliable information from local healthcare professionals you know and trust.

Enchanted Circle COAD

<https://eccoad.org>

Request COVID-related assistance, search resources, identify opportunities to volunteer.

Vaccine Education Center

<https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/making-vaccines/prevent-covid>

Great videos from Dr. Paul Offitt, a well-respected vaccine expert at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia

New Mexico Department of Health

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

The number of positive COVID-19 cases and lives lost in New Mexico *changes frequently*. For the most up-to-date information and statistics, visit the For more information on COVID-19 please call the Department of Health COVID-19 hotline at 1-855-600-3453.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

For accurate, timely information and guidelines regarding COVID-19 in the United States and abroad

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>