



August 20, 2021

RE: Update on COVID-19 vaccine requirements for clinical

Dear Healthcare Program Students,

All Bellevue College students must comply with BC's decision to become a fully vaccinated campus, announced in the president's email on 7/26. We expect information about the BC COVID vaccine attestation process, which includes medical and religious exemptions, to be forthcoming the week of August 23.

In addition, Bellevue College students going to clinical sites **must** follow the clinical site requirements for vaccination. [Governor Inslee's proclamation 21-14](#) requires all healthcare workers, including student volunteers, to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021, unless [they qualify for a medical or religious exemption](#).

Clinical partners may have an accommodation for a student's documented medical or religious exemption; however, they may not. If you are not planning to get the COVID-19 vaccine and you do not qualify for a medical or religious exemption per the clinical site's guidelines, Bellevue College likely will not be able to place you in a clinical site, which means you will not be able to complete the program you have started. Bellevue College does not set or control clinical site standards or documentation requirements.

If you are not accepted by a clinical site due to your vaccination status and you qualify for a medical or religious exemption, the College will attempt to locate an alternative clinical placement, but cannot guarantee that a placement will be found. If no alternative clinical placement is identified, you must understand that you may not be able to complete the program due to inability to complete clinical coursework.

If you are not planning to get the COVID-19 vaccine and you do not have a medical or religious exemption, Bellevue College likely will not be able to place you in any clinical site, which means you will not be able to complete the program you have started. Because [it takes time](#) to be fully vaccinated, we recommend you explore your options and decide as soon as possible how you would like to proceed. At this time, your options are to (1) receive the vaccination and continue with your program; (2) decline the vaccination, qualify for a religious or medical exemption, and continue in your program knowing that your training may be interrupted if your assigned clinical partner is unwilling to provide an accommodation, or (3) decline the vaccination and withdraw from your program.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccination, the following sources have evidence-based information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>
<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/vaccine/facts.aspx>

For help exploring your concerns and options, you may reach out to [Bellevue College counseling](#).

Sincerely,

Leslie Heizer Newquist, Dean / Health Sciences, Education and Wellness Institute (HSEWI)