

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Fall Policies

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

08.06.2021



08.06.2021

Table of Contents

1. Vaccine Requirement	Page 2
2. Vaccine Requirement FAQs	Pages 3-6
3. COVID-19 Testing	Pages 7-9
4. Face Coverings and Social Distancing	Page 10
5. Members Who Test Positive	Pages 11-12



08.06.2021

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

Vaccine Requirement

I-House Members. Effective 01 August 2021, all new and returning members living at International House (with the exception of those who receive approved medical or religious exemptions) must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of membership.

Members are required to obtain the first shot of a two-series COVID-19 vaccine, or a single-dose vaccine, within 72 hours of arrival, or submit proof of vaccination, prior to arrival. As needed, International House will assist members to obtain vaccine appointments to fulfill this requirement.

New and returning members should contact Admissions (Admissions@ihouse-nyc.org) and Global Health and Wellness Services (globalhealthandwellness@ihouse-nyc.org) for assistance and instructions in fulfilling this requirement.

1.1 I-House Staff. Effective 01 August 2021, all new and existing staff members (with the exception of those who receive approved medical or religious exemptions) must be vaccinated against COVID-19. As needed, International House will assist staff to obtain vaccine appointments. Staff should contact Human Resources for assistance and instructions in fulfilling this requirement. Staff will be entitled to four hours of paid leave for vaccination appointments.

1.2 Vaccination Type and Proof of Vaccination for Members and Staff. International House will accept any United States, FDA-approved vaccine, and any WHO-authorized vaccine. Members and staff must present proof of vaccination for series and single-dose vaccines, which International House will keep confidential.

1.3 Exemptions for Medical and Religious Reasons. International House allows vaccination exemptions for both medical and religious reasons. Members and staff requesting an exemption for religious reasons will be required to submit a written statement, signed by the individual submitting the request, or signed by a parent or legal guardian if the requesting individual is a minor, explaining how immunization conflicts with the requesting individual's religious beliefs. Individuals requesting an exemption for medical reasons will be required to submit a statement from a doctor, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse explaining the medical contraindication and the time period for which the exemption is being requested. Medical examinations may be required.

This policy is subject to change and may be updated from time to time to reflect the latest federal, state, and local public health guidance.



08.06.2021

FAQs

Vaccination Requirements at International House

1. Am I eligible to get vaccinated in New York?

Yes. All individuals 12 years of age and older that reside in the United States are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Eligibility is frequently being expanded in New York and elsewhere.

2. Where can I get vaccinated against COVID-19?

Vaccines are available at pharmacies, hospitals, local health departments and Federally Qualified Health Centers statewide – please contact your provider of choice to schedule your vaccine appointment. The following websites, current as of this writing, will help you locate a vaccination site and schedule an appointment:

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

<https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-vaccines/>

<https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>

3. When will I be considered “fully vaccinated”?

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require two doses for effectiveness. For these vaccines, second-dose appointments are typically scheduled at the time you receive your first vaccine dose. Johnson & Johnson’s (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 vaccine requires only one dose. You should be considered fully vaccinated two weeks after you received your second dose (or first dose, in the case of a single-dose vaccine). Consult with your medical provider if you received another vaccine to confirm when you will be fully vaccinated.

4. Where can I submit proof of vaccination?

New members and returning members who have paid a deposit may upload proof of vaccination to the International House application portal, (the same portal used to submit a member’s application materials). International House staff may submit proof of vaccination to Human Resources, who will maintain this information’s confidentiality.

5. Will there be exemptions to immunization against COVID-19?

International House allows vaccination exemptions for both medical and religious



08.06.2021

reasons. Members and staff requesting an exemption for religious reasons will be required to submit a written statement, signed by the individual submitting the request, or signed by a parent or legal guardian if the requesting individual is a minor, explaining how immunization conflicts with the requesting individual's religious beliefs. Individuals requesting an exemption for medical reasons will be required to submit a statement from a doctor, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse explaining the medical contraindication and the time period for which the exemption is being requested. Medical examinations may be required.

To assist any employee who is disabled, who is pregnant, who is a nursing mother, who has a qualifying medical condition that contraindicates the vaccination, or who objects to being vaccinated on the basis of sincerely held religious beliefs and practices, International House will engage in an interactive process to determine if a reasonable accommodation can be provided so long as it does not create an undue hardship for International House and/or does not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others in the workplace and/or to the employee.

6. I am an international student and the vaccines available to me are not authorized for emergency use by the United States Food and Drug Administration (the FDA). Will a vaccine from my country be acceptable?

International House will accept any United States, FDA-approved vaccine, and any WHO-authorized vaccine. If you have not been vaccinated in your home country, International House will assist you, upon request, to obtain a vaccine within 72 hours of when you arrive at International House.

7. I have already had COVID-19. Do I still need to provide proof of vaccination?

Yes. All members and staff will be required to be fully vaccinated as a prerequisite for living or working at International House and must provide proof of vaccination.

8. Will I be required to quarantine at International House in the fall, if I have provided proof that I am fully vaccinated, and I have tested negative for COVID-19 prior to my arrival at International House?

No. Members who have provided proof that they are fully vaccinated, and who have tested negative for COVID-19 prior to their arrival at International House, will not be required to quarantine upon arrival.



08.06.2021

9. Is there any circumstance under which I might be required to isolate or quarantine at International House in the fall?

Yes. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, will be required isolate at International House. International House may also require a close contact of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 to quarantine if the close contact is not fully vaccinated. Additionally, if a member is not vaccinated and has not submitted a negative PCR test prior to arrival, in accordance with the International House testing policy, International House may require the member to quarantine until a negative PCR test is presented *and* a vaccine is obtained.

10. After vaccination, do members still need to wear face coverings and practice physical distancing indoors and in public spaces?

For Fall 2021 or until further notice, all members and staff are required to wear face coverings in common areas of International House.

11. Will COVID-19 testing still be required after vaccination?

Weekly testing is strongly encouraged in the summer 2021 and is based on an honor system. Testing will be required in the fall 2021. Please see the International House fall testing policy for details.

12. If I am already vaccinated, do I still need to follow COVID-19 safety protocols?

Yes. Until further notice, you will still need to practice these important COVID-19 prevention steps: staying home if you are sick, washing your hands, wearing a face covering, and keeping physical distance from others. International House will continue to relax restrictions indoors as it is safe to do so.

13. I am concerned that the vaccines are not safe. Why is this a requirement?

To date, the FDA has authorized three vaccines for emergency use in the United States; these vaccines have also been recommended for use by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. International House is making this announcement ahead of the start of the fall semester so that members and staff have the opportunity to gather information, consult with their health care providers if they so choose, and make informed choices for themselves. Most colleges and universities in New York City have instituted mandatory vaccine policies for fall 2021.

14. If the CDC recommends COVID-19 booster shots in the future, will I be required to receive one?



International House

08.06.2021

Although not required at this time, International House reserves the right to require members and staff to obtain a COVID-19 “booster shot,” or an additional dose of a vaccine as needed, if booster shots become FDA approved, and recommended by the CDC.

15. Will guests have to be fully vaccinated?

Yes, all guests must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination. If you have any questions regarding the guest policy, please contact Public Safety.

The information addressed in the FAQs is subject to change and may be updated from time to time to reflect the latest federal, state, and local public health guidance.



08.06.2021

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing

Despite the exceptional progress of the worldwide scientific community in preventing serious illness and death from the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus and its variants, there is still much to be learned about the public health impact of COVID-19. Markedly different prevalence rates of the virus, uneven access to, and uptake of the vaccine, asymptomatic transmission among young, and otherwise healthy cohorts, and the widespread easing of public health restrictions, are factors that make testing a fundamental prevention and diagnostic tool for International House members and staff.

Effective 1 August 2021, PCR testing for COVID-19 will be a condition of membership and employment at International House. The policy requirements are set forth below.

1. **New Members and Staff.** New members and staff must provide proof of a negative PCR test obtained within 7 days prior to arrival at International House and within 4 days of arrival at International House. International arrivals from locations that require a negative PCR test prior to air travel, may meet the first of the two-test requirement by submitting that test, provided it is a PCR test and was obtained within the requisite time period. Members must upload their test results to the International House Admissions application portal and staff must submit results to Human Resources, which International House will keep confidential.
2. **Members and Staff Who Travel.** Members and staff with recent international or domestic travel, particularly from areas with widespread community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, must submit the results of a negative PCR test obtained within 4 days of their return to International House and test, weekly, for two weeks after the date of return. Members who travel must upload their test results to the International House Admissions application portal and staff must submit results to Human Resources, which International House will keep confidential. Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated members who travel must inform International House of their travel plans by completing the Travel Itinerary Form, <https://www.ihouse-nyc.org/travel-itinerary/>.
3. **Fully Vaccinated Members and Staff.** Fully vaccinated members and staff **are strongly urged** to test bi-weekly for COVID-19, whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19. Testing is predicated upon an honor system. Members must submit tests only if requested by a staff member and staff must submit results only if requested by Human Resources, which International House will keep confidential.



08.06.2021

4. **Members and Staff Who Are Unvaccinated or Who Are Partially Vaccinated.** Members and staff awaiting vaccination; members and staff who have received the first dose of a two-dose series vaccine; or who are not yet fully vaccinated, **are required** to test, weekly, for COVID-19 until they are fully vaccinated. Members must upload their test results to the International House Admissions application portal and staff must submit results to Human Resources, which International House will keep confidential.
5. **Members or Staff Exempt from the COVID-19 Vaccine for Religious or Medical Reasons.** Any member or staff exempt from the vaccine requirement for religious or medical reasons must test, weekly, whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19. Members must upload their test results to the International House Admissions application portal and staff must submit results to Human Resources, which International House will keep confidential.
6. **Members or Staff Experiencing Symptoms.** Individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately contact their healthcare provider, obtain a PCR test, and notify Global Health and Wellness Services, or Public Safety, for support and follow-up. Members and staff experiencing symptoms should abstain from the use of common spaces at International House until the PCR test result is obtained.
7. **Members or Staff Who Test Positive for COVID-19.** Members or staff who test positive for COVID-19, should contact their primary care doctor, and stay connected with their physician until their isolation period ends and they are well enough to return to work or school.
 - a. *Instructions for Members Who Test Positive for COVID-19.* International House will provide members who test positive for COVID-19 with isolation apartments, or rooms with a private bath, as well as support services (e.g., mail, package, and food delivery, and referrals and counseling as needed). Members who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, will be asked to isolate at International House for a minimum of 10 days and test negative for COVID-19 to end isolation. Members should contact the Claremont Desk (212-316-8448), *immediately*, and inform them that you have tested positive for COVID-19. If you live with others, inform the Desk that you need to transfer to an isolation apartment. You will receive a call back within the hour with the apartment number and a transfer time. If you are outside the House when you receive the diagnosis, please await the call back before returning; if you are inside the House when you receive the diagnosis, please await the call in your room. Members who live alone in a studio or one



08.06.2021

bedroom may isolate in their own apartments but are still required to contact the Claremont Desk (212-316-8448), for instructions on isolation procedures.

- b. *Instructions for Staff Members Who Test Positive for COVID-19.* Staff who test positive for COVID-19 should contact their primary care doctor and notify their supervisor, immediately.

8. **Tests International House Accepts.** International House accepts the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) PCR test only. PCR tests are readily available in New York City and are typically free of charge, whether or not you have insurance. Make sure to call ahead to determine any financial costs.

This policy is subject to change and may be updated from time to time to reflect the latest federal, state, and local public health guidance.



08.06.2021

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Face Coverings and Social Distancing

Background: Due to the prevalence of several COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) variants, globally, and because not all members may be fully vaccinated upon arrival, face coverings and maintaining a safe distance from others are required in certain circumstances. The settings in which members and staff must wear a face covering and maintain a distance from others differ depending on whether individuals have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

1.1 Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated Members or Staff. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated members or staff of International House must wear a face covering and maintain 6 feet, or 2 meters distance from others, whenever they are in a shared, indoor, or outdoor I-House space. Examples include, but are not limited to, any International House study area, the computer room, fitness center, gym, dining hall, outdoor patio or 9th floor terrace, any South building common bathroom area, or common area of a multi-bedroom suite in the North building. Children 2 years of age and older who can comfortably tolerate a face covering are included in this guidance.

1.2 Members or Staff Who Are Fully Vaccinated. All members and staff, regardless of vaccination status, must wear face coverings in common areas of International House. This includes members outside of their rooms and staff in offices where more than one person is present. All members and staff must also maintain social distancing whenever they are in a shared, indoor, or outdoor I-House space. Vaccinated members must submit proof of vaccination through the I-House portal. Staff must submit proof of vaccination to Human Resources, which International House will keep confidential.

1.3 Definitions. In general, people are considered partially vaccinated less than two weeks after they receive a single-dose vaccine; when they are in between doses of a series vaccine; or less than two weeks after they receive the second dose of a 2-dose series vaccine. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. Acceptable proof of vaccination may include (but is not limited to) one of the following: New York State Excelsior Pass; CDC COVID-19 vaccine card; WHO vaccine booklet; documentation provided by a health care professional, organization, or country.

This policy is subject to change and may be updated from time to time to reflect the latest federal, state, and local public health guidance.



08.06.2021

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Policy Members Who Test Positive

New York has reopened without restrictions in most settings. Testing and other public health measures are still in effect for the fall in hospitals and other healthcare facilities. Academic institutions are reopening with in-person learning but may require testing, isolation if positive for COVID-19 infection, and testing and monitoring of symptoms after travel. According to public health officials, the likelihood of variants becoming dominant is inevitable in New York City, as is the susceptibility to them for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals. Members are encouraged to become familiar with the International House testing guidelines and other measures in place to protect the community.

This policy provides guidelines for individuals who experience symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), or any of its variants, and those who test positive.

1. Members or Staff Experiencing Symptoms.

1.1 Individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately contact their healthcare provider, obtain a PCR test, and abstain from the use of common spaces at International House until the PCR test result is obtained.

1.2 Members should notify Global Health and Wellness Services, or Public Safety, for support and follow-up. Staff should notify Human Resources.

2. Members or Staff Who Test Positive for COVID-19.

2.1 Members or staff who test positive for COVID-19, should immediately contact their primary care physician, and stay connected with their healthcare provider until their isolation period ends and they are well enough to return to work or school.

2.2 Members who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, will be asked to isolate at International House for a minimum of 10 days and test negative for COVID-19 to end isolation, and receive clearance from their healthcare provider.

2.3 International House will provide members who test positive for COVID-19 with isolation apartments, or rooms with a private bath, as well as support services (e.g., mail, package, and food delivery, and referrals and counseling as needed) Members who test positive for COVID-19 should contact the Claremont Desk (212-316- 8448), *immediately*, and inform the attendant



International House

08.06.2021

that you are a member who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you live with others, inform the Desk that you need to transfer to an isolation apartment. You will receive a call back within the hour with the apartment number and a transfertime.

2.6 Members Outside International House When Diagnosed. If you are outside the House when you receive the diagnosis, please await the call back before returning; if you are inside International House when you receive the diagnosis, please await the call in your room. Members who live alone in a studio or one bedroom may isolate in their own apartments but are still required to contact the Claremont Desk for instructions on isolation procedures.

Instructions for Staff Members Who Test Positive for COVID-19.

2.7 Staff who test positive for COVID-19 should contact their primary care doctor and notify Human Resources, who will keep this information confidential.

2.8 Human Resources will conduct a contact tracing interview to determine if there are any International House close contacts of the positive individual (members or staff) who should monitor for symptoms, obtain a PCR test, and quarantine if they are unvaccinated, or partially vaccinated.

Tests International House Accepts. International House accepts the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) PCR test only. PCR tests are readily available in New York City and are typically free of charge, whether or not you have insurance. Make sure to call ahead to determine any financial costs.

This policy is subject to change and may be updated from time to time to reflect the latest federal, state, and local public health guidance.