

July 13, 2021

Dear Hebrew College Community,

The pandemic conditions in the U.S. continue to improve, thanks to ever-increasing levels of vaccination across the country. As of today, over 4 million residents in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated.

Encouraged by the prospects of moving toward a post-pandemic normal, we are making plans to reopen 100 percent of our campus resources to offer in-person and hybrid educational experiences this fall 2021. Staff will be encouraged to continue to work in a hybrid mode, combining remote work with regular presence on campus, in coordination with your supervisor and colleagues.

After careful consideration, Hebrew College has decided to join the growing ranks of hundreds of higher education institutions across the country — and nearly all those within New England — in requiring its students, faculty, staff, regular renters, and contractors returning to work or study on campus to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by August 15, 2021.

Exemptions from COVID-19 vaccination requirements will be made only for religious or medical reasons on a case-by-case basis.

Everyone ages 12+ who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccination and walk-in appointments are available across numerous locations. Students in Massachusetts, including those hailing from other states or countries, are eligible to be vaccinated.

Please do not hesitate to contact Steffi Bobbin in our HR department if you have any questions.

Also, please be aware that, based on future developments regarding the pandemic, community health and awareness, or policies put in place by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the protocols described here may be subject to change.

Wishing everyone a healthy and relaxing remainder of the summer, and very much looking forward to seeing you all in person this fall!

Best,

Sharon

FAQs

How does someone apply for an exemption?

To be considered for a medical exemption, a person is required to present a letter to the Director of Human Resources from a licensed medical doctor stating that they are exempt. No personal information needs to be included in this letter. For a religious exemption, a person should also present a letter in writing to the Director of Human Resources. Each instance will be reviewed by the Leadership Team and handled on a case-by-case basis.

What is our policy regarding visitors?

Visitors must be vaccinated or masked to come into the building. We will currently be using the "Honor System" — no documentation required.

Who needs to wear a mask?

Anyone who is not yet fully vaccinated. (Others may choose to wear a mask voluntarily.)

Who doesn't need to wear a mask?

Anyone who is fully vaccinated.

Do students need to provide immunization documentation?

Yes.

Do faculty, staff, renters, or visitors need to provide immunization documentation?

No.

Do the rules change when outside in the courtyard or on the cafeteria patio?

No masks are required outdoors.

What is expected of someone who is not feeling well?

People who are not feeling well are encouraged to stay home. If the feeling persists, they should consult with their physician.

What if a person has been tested for COVID-19 and is positive?

A person who has tested positive should stay home and follow all of the CDC guidelines.

What if a person has been advised of exposure via contact tracing?

A person who has been advised of exposure should stay home and follow all of the CDC guidelines.