

COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Fact Sheet

(as of 080321)

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a new coronavirus discovered in 2019. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Some people who are infected may not have symptoms. For people who have symptoms, illness can range from mild to severe. (<https://www.cdc.gov/dotw/covid-19/index.html>)

How does COVID-19 Spread?

COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, nose, or mouth. In some circumstances, they may contaminate surfaces they touch. People who are closer than 6 feet from the infected person are most likely to get infected.

COVID-19 is spread in three main ways:

- Breathing in air when close to an infected person who is exhaling small droplets and particles that contain the virus. The SARS-CoV-2 Virus can be contained in the small droplets after someone with the virus coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- Having these small droplets and particles that contain the virus land on the eyes, nose, or mouth, especially through splashes and sprays like a cough or sneeze.
- Touching eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have the virus on them. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>)

COVID-19 Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms such as cough, fever or headache to severe illness such as trouble breathing requiring hospitalization. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. If you have a fever, cough, or other [symptoms](#), you might have COVID-19. *An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting from 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person has any symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>)

COVID-19 Risks

Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Unvaccinated people should get vaccinated and continue masking until they are fully vaccinated. With the Delta variant, this is more urgent than ever.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>)

COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free! After you've been fully vaccinated, you can [resume activities that you did](#) prior to the pandemic in accordance with current CDC Guidance. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history. CDC recommends

you [get a COVID-19 vaccine](#) as soon as possible. The vaccines met the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA). [Learn more about EUAs in this video](#) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html?s_cid=10492:what%27s%20in%20the%20covid%20vaccine.sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21)

STAC and the COVID-19 Vaccine

St. Thomas Aquinas College is requiring that all members of the community receive the COVID-19 Vaccine.

If you receive a medical or religious exemption and you come in contact with someone who may be COVID-19 Positive or is confirmed COVID-19 Positive, you will be subject to contact tracing along with quarantine and isolation procedures, in accordance with CDC guidelines.

If you receive a medical or religious exemption, you will be required to wear a face covering in accordance with CDC and NYS Dept. of Health Guidance. It is important to remember that persons who are vaccinated may choose to wear a mask as well.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>)

If you receive a medical or religious exemption, you may be restricted from participating in activities on campus based upon a risk assessment.

Where can I find out more information?

Updates regarding the STAC COVID Mitigation Process can be found on the [Spartan Startup Page](#).

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention Frequently Asked Questions - COVID-19](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention Frequently Asked Questions - COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

St. Thomas Aquinas College Health and Wellness Services

- Ms. Yanara Reda, MSN, RN
- Email - yreda@stac.edu or stachealth@stac.edu
- Phone - 845-398-4242
- Office - #2B McNelis Commons 130 Route 340 Sparkill, NY 10976

To request a medical exemption for St. Thomas Aquinas College from the COVID-19 Vaccine [click here](#). *Students and employees exercising this right will not be subject to any retaliation.*

To request a religious exemption for St. Thomas Aquinas College from the COVID-19 Vaccine [click here](#). *Students and employees exercising this right will not be subject to any retaliation.*