



September 22, 2021

Folk School Vaccination Requirement for All Employees, Instructors, and Students, effective Sunday, November 14, 2021

Throughout the pandemic, the Folk School has made the safety and well-being of students, instructors, guests, visitors, staff, and the local community our highest priority. Continuing with this commitment while also ensuring the school can remain open and operational in these uncertain times, the Folk School's Board of Directors has voted to implement the following policy.

Effective Sunday, November 14, 2021, all employees, instructors, contracted staff, students, resident artists, hosts, work study students and all other associates and members of the Folk School are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This policy will comply with all applicable laws and is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health authorities.

This deadline has been set to give everyone the option to comply, and we encourage those who are not immunized to start getting vaccinated as soon as possible. The full vaccination process can take up to six weeks, as different vaccines require different time periods to elapse before receiving a second dose and all need two weeks after for the body to build adequate immunity. For example, if you receive your first shot of the Moderna vaccine October 1, your second shot would be four weeks later, October 29, and you would reach full immunity two weeks later on November 12.

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free for everyone age 12 and older living in the United States, regardless of insurance or immigration status. You can get most recommended vaccines at your doctor's office, and many recommended vaccines are also available at local pharmacies, health centers, health departments, and travel clinics. You can find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you by visiting [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), calling 1-800-232-0233 or by texting your zip code to 438829.*

Masks will still be required indoors at the Folk School, and we will continue to accommodate additional health and safety protocols, including physical distancing, limited capacity, and thorough cleaning and sanitization of common areas, community spaces, and housing. [For a detailed summary of our COVID-19 Safety Guidelines, click here.](#) This policy is subject to change and may be modified at any time if the Folk School finds it necessary

based on the CDC's or local health authority's recommendations as to what is considered fully vaccinated.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we've adjusted to the twists and turns of the pandemic, followed complex public health guidelines, and stayed on course to bringing back the Folk School experience in a safe and healthy manner. Detailed information for registered students and scheduled instructors is available below.

Students

Students registered for classes beginning on or after Sunday, November 14, 2021 will be notified of this policy by our Registration department via email or phone beginning Thursday, September 23. Students are required to verify vaccination status by emailing a photo or copy of their complete vaccine cards to healthinfo@folkschool.org or fax (828-837-8637) five business days prior to their class start date. The vaccine cards must indicate full vaccination (two shots for Moderna and Pfizer, and one shot for Johnson & Johnson). The date of the final shot must be at least two weeks prior to the class start date. Boosters are not required. Registered students who are not able to comply with this policy will be provided a full refund. The Registration staff will send email confirmations to all students upon receipt of vaccination proof. The Registration department can also be reached by calling 1-800-365-5724, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. ET.

Instructors, Performers, and Presenters

Instructors, performers, and presenters scheduled on or after Sunday, November 14, 2021 will be contacted by the Programs department via email or phone beginning Thursday, September 23. Instructors will be required to verify vaccination status and email a complete vaccination card (or photo) three weeks prior to their class start date. The vaccine cards must indicate full vaccination (two shots for Moderna and Pfizer, and one shot for Johnson & Johnson). Boosters are not required. Instructors who are not able to comply with this policy will be ineligible to teach their class. Instructors can email the Programs department at programming@folkschool.org or 1-800-365-5724.

Work Studies and Student Hosts

Work studies and student hosts scheduled on or after Sunday, November 14, 2021 will be contacted by Ellen O'Brien, Special Programs Manager by email or phone beginning Thursday, September 23. Work studies and student hosts will be required to verify vaccination status and provide a complete vaccination card (or photo) three weeks prior to their scheduled arrival date. The vaccine cards must indicate full vaccination (two shots for Moderna and Pfizer, and one shot for Johnson & Johnson). Boosters are not required. Work Studies and Student Hosts who are not able to comply with this policy will be ineligible to participate in those programs. Work studies and student hosts can contact Ellen O'Brien at ellen@folkschool.org or 1-800-365-5724, ext.147.

*United States Department of Health and Human Services:
<https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/get-vaccinated/where/index.html>