

PSB STAFF COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

The Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) are committed to providing a safe environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, vaccination is the leading prevention strategy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, reduce hospitalizations and severe disease, and keep members of our school community safe. Particularly due to the inability of many students to obtain vaccination until they are age-eligible, and the setting of schools where groups gather indoors, the Public Schools of Brookline, consistent with public health guidance and the Governor's Executive Orders, shall require all staff to provide proof that they have received full COVID-19 vaccination and maintain full vaccination as a condition of employment or work as an on-site vendor/contractor, unless they receive approval for a documented medical or religious exemption in accordance with relevant state and/or federal law. In the event that such an exemption is approved, exempted employees shall provide continuing proof of one weekly negative COVID-19 viral test result to the Office of the Coordinator of School Health Services (or entities designated by the Office of the Coordinator of School Health Services) every school week as a condition of employment for employees or as a condition of continued work as an on-site vendor/contractor. The weekly COVID-19 viral test must be a molecular test performed in a clinical setting.

Definitions:

1. "Full COVID-19 vaccination" status will be accorded to any person two weeks after the final dose of initial vaccination (one dose for Johnson & Johnson and two doses for Pfizer and Moderna).
2. The "maintain full vaccination" provision obligates staff with "full COVID-19 vaccination" status to receive any Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-recommended booster vaccine shot(s) for the Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Moderna vaccines within 8 weeks of availability.
3. "COVID-19 viral test result" refers to the results of molecular (nucleic acid, RNA or PCR) tests.
4. "School week" refers to any week in which there is at least one school day.

This policy applies to all existing and newly hired employees, on-site vendors including transportation and food service vendors, on-site contractors, and volunteers regardless of whether the individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past. Employees, on-site vendors, on-site contractors and volunteers are referred to as "staff" in this policy.

Staff who do not have an approved medical or religious exemption must demonstrate that they are fully vaccinated with an FDA-approved or emergency use authorized COVID-19 vaccine by November 1, 2021. Staff who cannot demonstrate full vaccination by the date of implementation of this policy must submit their first weekly COVID-19 viral test result by September 20, 2021, and must submit COVID-19 viral test results in accordance with this policy every school week thereafter. For staff who work during the summer school session, school weeks include all weeks during the summer school session.

PSB leadership will establish processes in consultation with the Brookline Educators Union (BEU) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for verifying employee vaccination status and testing protocols necessary to implement this policy.

This policy will remain in place until revised or rescinded by the School Committee.

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