

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Beckman Center Fellows and Othmer Library Patrons (As of 01/24/2022)

The Science History Institute is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace. Since March 2020, the Institute has implemented policies and procedures that followed the guidance and directives of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the governor of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Departments of Health. The health and safety of Institute employees is of paramount importance. Due to the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, the Institute is taking additional measures to protect employees, their families, and Institute visitors from contracting and spreading COVID-19.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved one vaccine and granted an Emergency Use Authorization for two vaccines. All three vaccines have also been authorized by the FDA for use as a single booster dose for individuals 18 and over following completion of primary vaccination. These vaccines are all available to the public at no cost. The World Health Organization (WHO) has finalized their analysis of several vaccines in countries outside of the U.S. approved for emergency use. (See <https://www.who.int/news/item/07-05-2021-who-lists-additional-covid-19-vaccine-for-emergency-use-and-issues-interim-policy-recommendations> for the most current listing.)

The Institute is updating its mandatory vaccination policy for all Beckman Center fellows and Library patrons that use the Othmer Library to protect employees, fellows, and all Library patrons. All fellows and Library patrons must be fully vaccinated (as defined by the CDC), and, if eligible, must have received a booster shot¹ before they are permitted to gain access to the building.

Compliance with this policy is mandatory.

I. Information About COVID-19 Vaccines

The CDC has promoted the benefits and safety of the available COVID-19 vaccines. Public health officials at all levels of government also have recommended that everyone who is 12 and older and can safely do so should get vaccinated against COVID-19. According to the CDC:

- The current vaccines do not contain the COVID-19 virus and will not make you sick with the virus.

¹ See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html?s_cid=11705:who%20is%20eligible%20for%20covid%20booster:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY22 As of 01/07/2022, adults 18 and over are eligible to receive a booster shot 5 months after completing the Moderna or the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series, or 2 months after completing Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccination.

- Getting a vaccine will not make you test positive for COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are highly effective at preventing you from getting sick with COVID-19 and experiencing the most severe consequence of the disease.
- COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines do not change your DNA.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are an important tool in helping to stop the pandemic.
- COVID-19 vaccines will be free to you, though in the U.S. your insurance company may be billed for some charges.
- More information about COVID-19 vaccines and the U.S. vaccine approval process is available and frequently updated on the CDC's website at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/>

II. Continued Applicability of Other Infection Control Policies and Protocols

This COVID-19 Vaccination Policy is a key part of the Institute's strategy and commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy supplements other COVID-19 prevention measures implemented by the Institute.

The Institute needs your full cooperation and compliance with this and other health and safety policies to make them effective.

III. Vaccination Requirements

All new fellows and all Library patrons must:

- Ensure they are fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC with either:
 - a one-dose vaccine, e.g., Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, that has been granted an Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA; or
 - both doses of any two-dose vaccine, e.g., Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech, that has been granted an Emergency Use Authorization (Moderna) or approved (Pfizer-BioNTech) by the FDA.
 - a vaccine approved for emergency use by the WHO.
- Ensure that they have received a booster shot if eligible and consistent with existing guidance from the CDC.
 - For the purposes of this policy:
 - "Booster shot" means a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech, a dose of the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine, or a dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine following completion of the initial vaccine series. (Note: On December 16, 2021, the CDC endorsed recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices expressing a clinical preference for individuals to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine over Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine.)

- “Eligible” shall mean the following:

IF YOU RECEIVED Pfizer-BioNTech	IF YOU RECEIVED Moderna	IF YOU RECEIVED Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen	IF YOU RECEIVED OTHER WHO-APPROVED VACCINES
5 months after completing the initial vaccine series	5 months after completing the initial vaccine series	2 months after receiving the shot	6 months after completing the initial vaccine series. ²

Current fellows who are fully vaccinated with a one-dose or two-dose vaccine or a WHO-approved vaccine described above must receive a booster shot no later than 45 days after the date they became eligible to receive a booster shot. (Any fellow who is eligible to receive a booster shot on or before January 18, 2022, must receive the booster shot on or before March 4, 2022.)

IV. Proof of Vaccination

Current fellows who are required to obtain a booster shot under this policy must provide Charlotte Abney Salomon with written proof of vaccination on or before the 45th day following the date you became eligible for a booster shot (March 4, 2022 for anyone who is eligible to receive a booster shot on or before January 18, 2022), including the vaccination place, date(s), your name, and vaccine lot number. Do not include any medical or genetic information with your proof of vaccination. The Institute will keep your vaccination information confidential.

All new incoming fellows must provide Charlotte Abney Salomon with written proof of vaccination, and a booster shot, if applicable, including the vaccination place, date(s), your name, and vaccine lot number. Do not include any medical or genetic information with your proof of vaccination. The Institute will keep your vaccination information confidential.

All incoming Library patrons must show Library personnel proof of vaccination, including a booster shot, if applicable (physical copy or photo on the patron’s phone), including the vaccination place, date(s), your name, and vaccine lot number.

² Individuals who previously received other World Health Organization-approved vaccinations should receive a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot if they received their initial vaccine series at least six months ago, in accordance with CDC guidance.

V. Consequences of Refusing Vaccination

Failure by any current fellow to provide proof that they have completed the required booster shot by the 45th day following the date they became eligible for a booster shot (March 4, 2022 for anyone who is eligible to receive a booster shot on or before January 18, 2022) will result in the termination of their fellowship.

If a new fellow fails to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated and have received a booster shot, if applicable, by the start date of their fellowship, their fellowship will either be deferred or fully remote, as determined by the Institute, until the fellow can provide the necessary documentation. If the fellow fails to provide the proof that they are fully vaccinated and have received a booster shot, if applicable, eight weeks after the original start date of the fellowship, the Institute has the right to withdraw the fellowship offer.

If a Library patron fails to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated and have received a booster shot, if applicable, they will not be granted access to the building until they provide the necessary documentation.

VI. Policy Administration and Questions

The Othmer Library is responsible for administering and enforcing this policy. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact Michelle DiMeo, Arnold Thackray Director of the Othmer Library at mdimeo@sciencehistory.org.

VII. Policy Modification

Government and public health guidelines and restrictions and business and industry best practices regarding COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines are changing rapidly as new information becomes available and further research is conducted. The Institute reserves the right to modify this policy at any time in its sole discretion to adapt to changing circumstances and business needs, consistent with its commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace.