

# SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

## L O S A N G E L E S

### COVID-19 Booster Shot Requirement

Administrative policy. Effective December 17, 2021; revised January 6, 2022.

Scheduled review date: June 1, 2022 (COVID Response Team).

#### A. Overview

Southwestern Law School's proactive implementation of a COVID-19 vaccination requirement—along with regular testing for those with approved medical and religious exemptions and other safety protocols—proved to be an important factor in keeping our community safe during the Fall 2021 semester. We were able to continue in-person instruction and study until our planned shift to remote operations after Thanksgiving.

The science shows that booster shots are critical to maintaining the ongoing risks of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 and mitigating serious symptoms in many individuals. In addition, emerging evidence shows that the Omicron variant is highly transmissible and is likely to become the dominant variant in the United States. Moreover, the test positivity, new case, and hospitalization rates in Los Angeles County are all increasing. **Consequently, Southwestern will now require students, faculty, staff, coaches, and volunteers who plan to access campus during the Spring 2022 semester to receive a booster shot of a CDC-approved vaccine as soon as they are eligible.**

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), if you are at least 18 years old and it has been at least six months since you received the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or at least two months since you received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you should receive a booster shot.

While the COVID-19 vaccines remain effective in preventing severe disease, [the](#) protection against the virus and ability to prevent infection with variants [decreases over time](#). Vaccine boosters are widely available. Please visit [vaccines.gov](#) to find locations.

## **B. Timing**

All students, faculty, staff, coaches, and volunteers who plan to access campus during Spring 2022, have not been approved for a medical or religious exemption by Southwestern, or have not been granted a delay by Southwestern under this policy must submit proof of receiving the vaccine booster by **January 18, 2022**.

Individuals who are ineligible to receive a booster by January 18, 2022 because of the date on which they became fully vaccinated must present proof of having received the booster within two weeks of becoming eligible.

Any student who was not enrolled in Southwestern during the Fall 2021 semester must submit proof of a COVID-19 vaccination, including a booster (if eligible) by **January 18, 2022**. If a student in this category believes they are entitled to a medical or religious exemption, they should email [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu).

## **C. Submitting Documentation**

Please submit a true, accurate, and clear image of your vaccine card that shows the date you received each dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, including the COVID-19 booster, using this link: [Southwestern COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination & Booster Submission Form](#).

If you have issues submitting an image of your card, please email [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu).

## **D. Booster Exemptions**

Individuals who received an exemption from Southwestern for the COVID-19 vaccination are also exempt from the booster vaccination and do not need to file additional forms. Individuals with an exemption must continue to test twice weekly with Nobility Health.

## **E. Special Circumstances**

If you have received the COVID-19 vaccination and are eligible to receive a booster but have a special circumstance, such as a recommendation from a medical provider that you delay receiving the booster, please email [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu) by **January 18, 2022**, to discuss your situation. Southwestern may require you to provide documentation to support your circumstance, so we urge you to reach out as early as possible. Southwestern will be monitoring the [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu) email during Winter Break.

## F. **Failure to Comply with the Booster Requirement**

**Students** who do not or cannot submit evidence of having received the COVID-19 booster by January 18, 2022, must test twice per week with Nobility Health. Twice-weekly testing must continue until the student submits evidence of having received the booster.

**Faculty and staff** who fail to meet the COVID-19 booster requirement by the respective deadlines and have not been granted a delay due to special circumstances may be subject to corrective action. In addition, faculty and staff who do not or cannot submit evidence of having received the COVID-19 booster by January 18, 2022, must test twice per week with Nobility Health. Twice-weekly testing must continue until the employee submits evidence of having received the booster.

**Volunteers and coaches** who fail to meet the COVID-19 booster requirement will not be permitted to access campus.

## G. **COVID-19 PCR Testing During Spring 2022**

To access campus during the Spring 2022 semester, students, faculty, staff, coaches, and volunteers must adhere to the COVID-19 PCR testing schedule below. Please direct questions to [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu). On-campus testing with Nobility Health will resume on January 25, 2022 on Tuesdays and Fridays from noon until 6:00 p.m. on the lower level of the Bullocks Wilshire parking garage. Members of the Southwestern community may also test at [Nobility's three off-campus locations](#). As circumstances and the science evolve, Southwestern may enhance testing requirements, especially for those who are not vaccinated or who have not received a booster.

- **Pre-Spring Semester:** As previously announced to the Southwestern community, **all students, faculty, staff, coaches, and volunteers who plan to access campus during Spring 2022** must test on either January 25 or 26, 2022. This requirement applies to all Southwestern community members, regardless of vaccination or booster status.
- **Week after Spring Break: All Southwestern students, faculty, staff, coaches and volunteers who plan to access campus after Spring Break**, regardless of vaccination or booster status, will be required to test with Nobility Health on a designated day the week following Southwestern's Spring Break. Southwestern operations and classes will be remote the week following Spring Break to allow community members to test before returning to campus.

- **Individuals Who Are Not Fully Vaccinated:** Individuals who are not fully vaccinated (two shots of Pfizer or Moderna or one shot of Johnson & Johnson) and have a Southwestern-approved exemption must continue to test twice per week through Nobility Health, starting on January 25, 2022, and including January 28, 2022.
- **No Booster:** Individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine but have not received the booster must test twice per week, starting on January 31, 2022. They must also test on January 25 or 26, 2022.
- **Travel and Testing:** Members of the Southwestern community must test in compliance with the Law School's "COVID-19 Procedures for Employees and Students Traveling on Official School Business" and "Advocacy Competition Teams COVID-19 Procedures."