

## **Student COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement**

Big Bend students wishing to access in-person instruction, support, and/or services on campus and at college instructional sites as of Winter 2022 Quarter must either be vaccinated or have an approved exemption. Students who take online classes, seek online support and services, or participate in College in the High School classes are not required to be vaccinated.

Students taking in-person classes who have not attested to being vaccinated or received an approved exemption by December 16, 2021 will be dropped from Winter Quarter 2022 classes with in-person elements. Additionally, students enrolled in online classes who come to campus for more than 15 minutes are required to attest to being vaccinated or have an approved exemption.

### Vaccination Attestation Process

1. Click on the COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation [link](#).
2. Respond to the vaccination attestation prompts and type in the date(s) when you were vaccinated.

## **Vaccination Exemptions**

Students may request an exemption that would allow a student to remain unvaccinated for medical or religious reasons. Those requesting an exemption must submit documentation for their exemption request.

### Medical

Students must submit to the college the [Medical Exemption Form](#). A licensed Health Care Provider will need to indicate on the form that the student is medically unable to receive an authorized COVID-19 vaccine. The documentation must also state the duration the accommodation will be needed. For the purposes of the medical exemption request, a Health Care Provider includes all qualified and licensed MD, ND, DO, ARNP, or PA professionals.

### Religious

Students must submit to the college the [Religious Exemption Form](#). On the form the student must explain their sincerely held religious belief that prevents them from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The religious exemption must be based on a sincerely held religious belief system that is comprehensive in nature, including both theistic beliefs and non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as to what is right and wrong, with the strength of traditional religious views. Social, political, or economic philosophies, as well as mere personal preferences, are not religious beliefs; however, overlap between a religious and political view does not place it outside the scope of the exemption.

### Process for Requesting an Exemption

1. Click on the COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation [link](#).
2. Indicate the type of exemption you would like to request.

3. Download and complete the relevant exemption form ([Medical Exemption Form](#) or [Religious Exemption Form](#)).
4. Email the completed exemption form to the appropriate email address (email the Medical Exemption Form to [Medical\\_Exemptions@bigbend.edu](mailto:Medical_Exemptions@bigbend.edu) and email the Religious Exemption Form to [Religious\\_Exemptions@bigbend.edu](mailto:Religious_Exemptions@bigbend.edu)).
5. College staff will review your request and send you an email letting you know if your exemption request was approved or denied and the implications for your attendance at Big Bend.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **If I already completed the COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation, do I need to do it again?**

No. You only need to complete the COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation form a second time if your responses have changed.

#### **Do I have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend Big Bend Community College?**

No. Students with an approved medical or religious exemption may come to the college campus or an instructional site to attend classes or receive services. However, a student with an exemption will have to follow specific safety protocols. In addition, unvaccinated students without an approved exemption can attend online classes but may not come to campus to receive services. Finally, students in the College in the High School program are not required to be vaccinated provided they do not have any classes on campus.

#### **Am I required to be fully vaccinated to come onto the Big Bend Community College campus?**

Yes. Students who will come to the college campus or an instructional site beginning Winter Quarter 2022, must either be vaccinated or have an approved medical or religious exemption by December 16, 2021.

#### **What does fully vaccinated mean?**

A person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 **two weeks after** they have received the second dose in a two-dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use by the FDA (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or **two weeks after** they have received a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use by the FDA (e.g., Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen). A person is also fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that is listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).

#### **Are students required to provide their vaccination card or vaccination documentation?**

Students providing vaccination information are required to truthfully self-attest through the COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation [link](#). This process does not require the immediate upload of documentation, such as a card or other proof at the time of attestation.

However, the current mandate requires monitoring, so the College will conduct routine audits of self-attestations by contacting students for proof of documentation throughout the term. This will occur in randomized fashion and where deemed necessary.

### **How do I submit an exemption? What exemptions are available?**

There are two possible exemptions: Medical and Religious. Submitting an exemption is a two-step process. First, students must denote they would like a medical or religious exemption when completing the [COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation](#). Second, students must submit the appropriate exemption form ([Medical Exemption Form](#) or [Religious Exemption Form](#)). Students must email the completed form to the appropriate email address (email the Medical Exemption Form to [Medical\\_Exemptions@bigbend.edu](mailto:Medical_Exemptions@bigbend.edu) and email the Religious Exemption Form to [Religious\\_Exemptions@bigbend.edu](mailto:Religious_Exemptions@bigbend.edu)).

### **My child is a Running Start student. How do I submit the vaccination verification for my Running Start student?**

Running Start students are treated as college students, even if they are minors, and need to complete the vaccination attestation process. All students who will participate in in-person courses, operations, and activities on campus or a college instructional site beginning Winter Quarter 2022 must be vaccinated or have an approved exemption.

### **Are prospective students who are not fully-vaccinated allowed to come to campus?**

Yes, prospective students and visitors may not know that Big Bend Community College is a vaccination-required campus. All prospective students and visitors to campus are required to wear face masks regardless of vaccination status.

Part of the orientation process for students includes information about the vaccination requirements.

### **Do visitors, such as, prospective students who are interested in attending BBCC or taking exams in the placement/testing center, have to be fully vaccinated to come to campus?**

Visitors to campus including prospective students and test takers for exams such as SATs are not required to be fully vaccinated, however, they must wear masks.

### **What if I need to pick up a library book or drop off a form?**

Students will be able to use our library's curbside pickup and a drop off box will be located on the North end of the library to drop off forms.

### **Can I come to class the first day if I plan to request an exemption but have not done so yet?**

No. All new and current students who intend to enroll at Big Bend Winter Quarter 2022 must either be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption by December 16, 2021.

**Are fully vaccinated students required to wear masks when on campus?**

Yes. At this time, everyone who comes to campus is required to wear masks indoors. If the Governor’s masking mandate is lifted, only those with a legal exemption and all visitors to campus would be required to wear masks.

**Is social distancing still required?**

Beginning Winter Quarter 2022, Big Bend Community College will be a fully vaccinated campus so social distancing will only be required of those students who have an approved vaccination exemption.

**Do student employees who already completed the vaccine attestation process as an employee still have to complete the vaccine verification processes for students?**

Yes.

**Who will have access to my student vaccine or exemption information?**

Under the current proclamation, Big Bend Community College has the legal responsibility to ensure that students who participate in in-person courses, operations, and activities on campus or a college instructional site, are either vaccinated or have an exemption. To this end, employees will only have access to general information about whether a student has satisfied the requirements to be on campus or must remain off campus. Specific health information will only be made available consistent with legal and health mandates to do so.

**Does disclosing my vaccination status violate HIPPA?**

Disclosing your status to the college does not violate HIPAA. HIPAA is designed to protect your medical records held by “covered entities” (medical service providers). While Big Bend Community College is not a covered entity, we will still protect individuals’ vaccination data, and it will only be used for official reporting and verification processes.