

Waring School
Family Handbook Addendum
Students and the Covid-19 Vaccine
2021-2022

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the school has relied on expertise from public health and infectious disease experts as it implemented health and safety protocols. Consistent with that approach, the school strongly recommends that our age-eligible students be vaccinated against Covid-19. If and when Massachusetts mandates the Covid-19 vaccine for school-age children, we will be following state law and also requiring vaccination of our students, subject to the medical and religious exemptions recognized by our state. The school will not accept a religious exemption for the Covid-19 vaccine only, if families are complying with other Massachusetts immunization requirements.

In support of recommending that students be vaccinated, we offer the following:

- A fully vaccinated student population is the best way to protect the health of students, employees, and the broader community against Covid-19 infection.
- Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasizes that vaccinations against the coronavirus are safe and effective and protect against current variants. Vaccines are now widely available.
- People who are fully vaccinated are less likely to transmit infection to others.
- This public health approach is consistent with longstanding efforts across the United States to protect students of all ages from a wide range of serious and contagious diseases.

In order to gauge how many students will be vaccinated, we will ask families to complete a questionnaire and update the student's vaccine status if it changes. This information will be maintained confidentially, and will only be used to help us to determine what safeguards we will need to have in place as we welcome families back this fall and otherwise update policies throughout the school year. Depending on the vaccine census in the Waring School community, we may therefore be requiring periodic Covid-19 testing, mask wearing, and other public health measures recommended by Massachusetts public health and education agencies, in addition to the CDC. For families with students who are not vaccinated: Families may be required to obtain a negative Covid PCR test within 72 hours of arriving on campus, and may be subject to Covid restrictions including but not limited to: periodic testing, mask-wearing, and travel program restrictions. Waring reserves the right to mandate vaccinations for students who participate in travel programming

We anticipate additional guidance will be issued by these agencies before the start of the school year, and possibly throughout it, so our actual policies and protocols are not yet finalized. We will keep you informed and ask for your continued partnership as we emerge from the pandemic.

Waring School
Covid-19 Vaccine Status
[Parent/Guardian Form]

Waring School strongly recommends that all students be fully vaccinated. In order for our Health Office to understand the vaccination status of every student, please choose one of the following that best represents your child's vaccination status:

My child is or will be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 before August 31, 2021. I will provide a copy of their vaccination card to the Nurse.

By checking any of the (3) boxes below, I understand that my child will be required to obtain a negative Covid PCR test within 72 hours of arriving on campus, and may be subject to Covid restrictions including but not limited to: periodic testing, mask-wearing, and travel program restrictions. I will assume responsibility for my child upon notification of their testing positive for Covid-19 or that they have been exposed to a someone with a known Covid-19 diagnosis.

My child will not be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 before August 31, 2021 but will receive their first dose of the vaccine within two weeks of full FDA approval of one of the Covid-19 vaccines.

I will be applying for a medical exemption for my child for the Covid-19 vaccine.

I will be applying for a religious exemption for my child for the Covid-19 vaccine.

Waring School will treat this information privately, and maintain it securely in the student's electronic health record.