

2021-2022 Influenza Vaccination Declination Statement for Staff and Academic Employees

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, the potential confluence of infections from COVID-19 and influenza poses a threat to the health and safety of the UC community and the public at large. The University of California issued a [system wide executive order](#) on October 8, 2021, requiring all covered students, staff, faculty and other academic appointees to get vaccinated against influenza or opt out by November 19, 2021.

I understand that:

1. According to the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) (CDC), vaccination against the seasonal respiratory disease influenza or “flu” has long been accepted as a safe and effective way to prevent millions of illnesses and thousands of related doctor and hospital visits every year. Flu vaccination in adults substantially reduces the risk of severe illness. By getting vaccinated, a person can also reduce risk to those around them, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness;
2. The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued [recommendations](#) regarding influenza vaccination for the 2021-2022 season. Specifically, ACIP advises that the “2021-22 influenza season is expected to coincide with continued circulation of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Influenza vaccination of persons aged ≥ 6 months to reduce prevalence of illness caused by influenza will reduce symptoms that might be confused with those of COVID-19. Prevention of and reduction in the severity of influenza illness and reduction of outpatient visits, hospitalizations, and intensive care unit admissions through influenza vaccination also could alleviate stress on the U.S. healthcare system;” and
3. Because COVID-19, like influenza, may cause respiratory symptoms, it is even more critical to achieve widespread vaccination during the current pandemic. As California has lifted COVID-19 restrictions, outbreaks have followed and the possibility of a surge that overwhelms the health care system and causes hospitals to adopt crisis standards of care necessarily increases. Population-level interventions that decrease the likelihood of absenteeism, disease transmission, hospitalization, and ICU utilization must therefore be considered and adopted where feasible.
4. By certifying* this choice, I acknowledge that:
 - o **I have read and understand the information provided in this informed refusal.**
 - o **I have had the opportunity to ask questions concerning the vaccine and have received satisfactory answers to my questions.**
 - o **I DO NOT agree to have the vaccine, as recommended.**

I understand that I can change my mind at any time and accept the flu vaccine.

I understand that as long as I refuse to accept the flu vaccine, I may be required to take extra precautions against transmission while at work, consistent with local policies. This may include wearing masks or face coverings on campus through the end of the flu season even if COVID-19-related masking requirements are loosened.

* You will certify your choice at the bottom of the 2021-2022 Influenza Vaccination Attestation Form for Staff and Academic Employees google form, by checking the available box.