

August 18, 2021

Governor Inslee held a press conference this afternoon to share his new COVID-19 directive for higher education. View the full announcement [here](#).

As of Monday, August 23, masks are once again required in indoor settings for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are also required in crowded outdoor settings.

Employees who have already been granted permission to remove masks indoors will need to once again mask up when around others, but can remove their masks when working alone, away from other people (such as in an office with the door closed).

All employees who work in higher education are also required to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus by October 18. We are working hard to get details about requirements related to medical and religious belief exemptions. Those details will be provided as they become available. The governor's directive does not allow personal or philosophical exemptions.

In order to be considered fully vaccinated by October 18, you must meet certain timelines depending on the type of vaccine you receive.

- Pfizer: must receive first dose no later than September 13, and second dose no later than October 4.
- Moderna: must receive first dose no later than September 6, and second dose no later than October 4.
- Johnson & Johnson: must receive single dose no later than October 4.

Stay safe, Nolan

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