

COVID Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions

Franklin University Switzerland strongly encourages the entire Franklin community to complete their COVID vaccinations. While we understand this might not be possible for everyone depending on your location and personal situation, we encourage you to do what you can to keep our community safe. We are working hard to put the pandemic behind us and create a 2021-2022 campus environment that is both safe and vibrant.

Together, we can create a safe and dynamic Franklin experience!

Below are frequently asked questions about the COVID vaccine to help students better understand the situation at Franklin and in Switzerland. The information shared here represents the situation as of July 8, 2021. We will update these answers and information as conditions change, but please keep in mind that our experience with COVID-19 has taught us that things can change quickly.

Q: What can I do to contribute to the health and safety of the Franklin community?

The most important step is to complete your COVID vaccinations before coming to campus if you can. The entire Franklin community is asked to take the [Pledge](#) to protect the Franklin community. By taking the Pledge, students recognize that they have a social responsibility towards their community to stop the spread of COVID-19 by following campus guidelines and being held accountable for their actions.

Q: Is the COVID vaccine required at Franklin?

Students are required to demonstrate proof of vaccination in order to participate in Academic Travel during Fall 2021. Complete the Vaccination Form and upload scans/PDFs as proof of your vaccination status (information sent via email). We are taking this measure to help ensure your safety and the safety of others. An alternative Swiss academic travel course may be available for students who have not been vaccinated, but that is not guaranteed at this time.

Q: What are the types of COVID vaccines recognized in Switzerland?

Switzerland recognizes the following types of COVID vaccines:

- Pfizer/Pfizer/BioNTech (BNT162b2 / Comirnaty® / Tozinameran)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273 / Spikevax / COVID-19 vaccine Moderna)
- AstraZeneca (AZD1222 Vaxzevria®/ Covishield™)
- Janssen / Johnson & Johnson (Ad26.COV2.S)
- Sinopharm / BIBP (SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell))
- Sinovac (CoronaVac)

Students who are not able to get one of the vaccines listed above should contact [Chris Schmid](#), the Coordinator of Student Medical Services, to set up an appointment for your free vaccination in Switzerland after your arrival.

Q: If I get my first vaccine dose in my current location, can I get the second dose after I arrive at Franklin?

Franklin strongly recommends that students obtain the full doses of the COVID vaccine in their current location **before** arriving at Franklin. If this is not possible, students should be aware that Ticino only offers two types of vaccines (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna). Students who need to obtain the second dose after arriving at Franklin must obtain one of these two vaccines. Students who need to obtain their second dose in Switzerland should contact [Chris Schmid](#), the Coordinator of Student Medical Services, for assistance.

Q: What if I am not able to get the COVID vaccine due to a medical exception?

Students with a medical exception should complete the Vaccination Form (information sent via email) to indicate that they are not vaccinated. They should upload their medical certificate documenting their situation. Students with a medical exception may need to change their Academic Travel class and follow other conditions (i.e. take a COVID test) depending on the requirements of Academic Affairs and the Academic Travel country.

Q: If I am not vaccinated before my arrival in Switzerland, how will that affect my on-campus housing?

Individuals who are not vaccinated will be required by Swiss authorities to quarantine for 10 days if they have close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID. In certain cases, Franklin may need to temporarily move one or more of the roommates in a shared bedroom during the quarantine period to avoid exposure.

Q: If I am not vaccinated for COVID-19, will I have to quarantine upon arrival in Switzerland?

Franklin follows the Federal Office of Public Health ([FOPH](#)) COVID mandates and guidelines that can change quickly to adapt to the epidemiological situation. On the FOPH site there is a travel quarantine list requiring non-vaccinated individuals who travel from high-risk countries to quarantine for 10 days upon arrival. Franklin encourages students and their family members to complete the Swiss [TravelCheck](#) prior to arrival to verify the conditions for your entry to Switzerland.

Q: What if I'm vaccinated, do I have to wear a mask?

During Fall 2021, the entire Franklin community is expected to **wear a mask indoors** on the Franklin campus. This includes all classrooms, computer labs, Library, Dining Hall and Grotto, WLC, and common areas (lounges, hallways, shared kitchens, etc.). In addition, individuals are expected to wear masks outdoors on the Franklin campus when social distancing is not possible.

Q: How will the COVID vaccine affect daily life in Switzerland?

Switzerland launched the COVID Certificate App to document when an individual has been vaccinated for COVID-19 in Switzerland, recovered from COVID-19 in Switzerland, or has a negative Swiss COVID test result. Students are encouraged to download the Swiss [COVID Certificate App](#) from the App store.

The Federal Office of Public Health ([FOPH](#)) mandates that individuals present a COVID Certificate in order to enter large events, discos, and nightclubs. In addition, certain events with no seating requirement may require individuals to present a COVID Certificate for entry.

The COVID vaccine and other conditions could be required to travel to certain countries. Students should verify the entry requirements for the countries where they intend to travel. Franklin encourages students to carry proof of their COVID vaccination, medical exception, COVID test results, and other related documents when they travel or attend certain events requiring this documentation. In addition, Franklin encourages students and their family members to complete the Swiss [TravelCheck](#) prior to arrival to verify the conditions for your entry to Switzerland.