

**NOLS Wilderness Medicine
Student COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**



Purpose

We are adopting this policy to prioritize the health of our students, employees, and NOLS communities, and reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

This policy is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and OSHA, as applicable.

Policy

All students are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 on all U.S. based NOLS Wilderness Medicine courses beginning in November 2021. Any COVID-19 vaccine approved by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) is an acceptable vaccine for the purposes of this policy.

Compliance will be on the following timeline:

- Students on courses beginning between November 1 and November 11, 2021 must have received the final vaccine dose prior to arrival at their course. Students who have not completed their two week waiting period after receiving their final dose must submit a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of the course start.
- Students on courses that begin on or after November 12, 2021 need to be two weeks or more past receiving the final vaccine dose prior to arrival at their course.

Wilderness Medicine instructors will review student vaccination cards at the start of the course.

Exemption requests in the categories noted below will be reviewed.

Exemptions

- Disability or documented medical contraindications to vaccines may allow an individual to be exempt from this requirement. Please see the procedure section below.
- Sincerely held religious beliefs, practices or observances that preclude vaccination may allow an individual to be exempt from this requirement. Please see the procedure section below.
- No exemption will be granted for students on WEMT courses due to healthcare facility requirements.

If granted an exemption, students will need to submit a negative PCR or antigen test taken within 72 hours before the course start, and students will be required to wear a

KN95 mask at all times during the course. On Wilderness Medicine classroom courses longer than five days, students will need to submit a rapid COVID test taken on day 6.

Exemption Request Procedures for Medical or Religious Reasons

Students seeking an exemption from this policy due to a medical reason, or because of a sincerely held religious belief, must submit a completed [Request for Exemption form](#) to wilderness_medicine@nols.edu to begin the review process. Requests must be submitted not later than 28 days prior to the course start date.