



Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

May 12, 2023

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universityofcalifornia.edu

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Dear Colleagues:

Since the University first issued its COVID-19 vaccine policy in December 2020, we have continued to monitor changing public health conditions, and the policy has undergone regular review, comment, and updates. We recognize the need for another update to our policy as federal and State public health guidance continues to evolve.

The federal [Public Health Emergency ended yesterday](#), along with the COVID-19 vaccination requirements for federal employees and federal contractors. [California's COVID-19 State of Emergency ended on February 28, 2023](#), and the [California Department of Public Health rescinded its health care worker vaccination requirement effective April 3, 2023](#).

Although COVID-19 is still with us, UC's leadership teams have determined that it is appropriate to move to a systemwide opt-out program for all Covered Individuals, which means that University policy would no longer require COVID-19 vaccination as a condition, with limited exceptions, to physical access. The [Policy on Vaccination Programs – With Updated Interim Amendments](#) will be revised to reflect this and circulated for Management Consultation shortly. With these changes, the University will require students and employees to either receive or affirmatively decline COVID-19 vaccination each year. In the event applicable law or public health orders impose stricter vaccination requirements, such as for healthcare workers, the policy will continue to require compliance with those stricter requirements.

We will share this update with the University community next week.

Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccination remains a critically important way to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our community safe. The decision to update our policy reflects the welcome fact that we have entered a very different phase in our response, with [more than 88 million COVID-19 vaccines having been administered in California](#).

After review of comments received through Management Consultation, the revised policy will be posted online. We will subsequently distribute an updated draft of the policy for full systemwide review.

If you have questions or concerns in the meantime, please direct them to:  
[vaccinepolicycomments@ucop.edu](mailto:vaccinepolicycomments@ucop.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Drake MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and a small "MD" at the end.

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

cc: Provost and Executive Vice President Newman  
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava  
Executive Vice President Carrie Byington  
Chief of Staff Kao  
Chief Policy Advisor McAuliffe  
Vice President Lloyd  
Vice Provost Haynes  
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