



May 11, 2021

Purdue University, one of the first universities to commit to reopening campus in 2020, has been as open, densely populated, and operational as any school its size while taking measured and necessary steps to protect its campus community. The consistent and nearly universal embrace of the [Protect Purdue Pledge](#) by our students, faculty and staff has been vital to the safety of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vaccination, according to medical authorities worldwide and evidence on a global basis, is the fastest and surest means today to significantly reduce the risk of exposure and serious illness, and Purdue continues to encourage all Boilermakers to get vaccinated now. The greater the percentage of our campus community who are vaccinated, the more protected we all are, and the more we can ease Protect Purdue restrictions and return to full normal operations.

In a survey sent to current students, faculty and staff in March, approximately 80% of Boilermakers who responded indicated they had already received or were planning to receive a vaccine, with another 10% undecided. And in less than four weeks, Purdue's on-campus clinic has vaccinated more than 18,000 people – virtually all of them students – against COVID-19.

Vaccination against COVID-19 also is an expression of the Protect Purdue Pledge: I protect myself from the risk of infection and serious illness, I protect others by reducing the spread of the virus and possibly more severe variants of COVID-19, and I protect our Purdue community against a large outbreak and the risk of closure.

As you plan to join us on campus soon and we continue into year two of the Protect Purdue Pledge, you may choose either to:

- Get fully vaccinated and successfully [submit valid documentation](#) before coming to campus this fall. (Students who choose to vaccinate upon arrival to campus may utilize our onsite clinic at no charge.) OR
- Participate in frequent, mandatory surveillance testing.

Students who provide valid documentation of full vaccination status against COVID-19 will be exempted from mandatory surveillance testing and may enjoy greater amounts of choice as it pertains to activities on campus. Random audits of submitted documentation will be performed to confirm vaccination status. Submitting falsified vaccine documentation will result in swift and severe disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Students may choose to decline the COVID-19 vaccination for medical or religious reasons. For those declining, failure to comply with frequent, mandatory testing on campus will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. It is currently our plan for unvaccinated students living in University Residences or FSCL Housing to test negative during required COVID-19 entry testing before moving into their residence this fall.

Participation in some optional campus activities and travel may require valid proof of vaccination (e.g., Study Abroad). Official vaccination declination forms will not be accepted in these cases. Limited exceptions may be made only for activities or travel that are strictly required for a degree program on a case-by-case basis.

Purdue will continue to offer symptomatic testing, and the Protect Purdue Health Center may order targeted testing in any potential hot spots as deemed necessary. The COVID-19 vaccine will be available and free of charge throughout the summer and into the fall semester at our on-campus clinic.

The above information represents our current point of view, based on the latest evidence amid a fluid and fast-moving environment. The Trustees of Purdue University plan to review, discuss and ratify an updated Protect Purdue Pledge and other Protect Purdue policies during their June 2021 meeting.

Jay Akridge
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

Esteban Ramirez
Chief Medical Officer, Protect Purdue Health Center