

Indiana County Technology Center

COVID/Influenza Vaccine Policy

The Indiana County Technology Center does not require the annual influenza vaccine nor COVID vaccine to participate in theory (classroom), skills lab or simulation activities held at the Indiana County Technology Center or any of the satellite schools.

Clinical experiences outside of the School are essential to the preparation of the student nurse requiring direct contact of the student with patients of all ages, including those who are ill or may be immunocompromised. The vaccine requirements are in place to protect the health and safety of the community. Clinical facilities have the right to determine the requirements in which students are eligible to obtain clinical experiences within their facility. As of November 5, 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued rules requiring employees at all CMS participating health care facilities to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This ruling also applies to students and faculty who have clinical experiences within the facility. The Indiana County Technology Center, School of Practical Nursing will follow the policy of the healthcare facilities as they relate to vaccine requirements.

Exemptions

There is no guarantee that exemptions to vaccine requirements are available. If a health care facility, in which clinical experiences are scheduled, allows for medical or religious exemptions to mandated vaccines, a review of relevant information submitted by the student will be completed. A medical exemption may be granted for a documented medical contraindication. The paperwork will be signed by a physician. A religious and/or sincerely held belief exemption may only be granted on the basis of a sincere and genuine religious or held belief prohibiting immunization.

Exemptions must be applied for on the appropriate form and approved by both the School and clinical facility. Supporting documentation is required. Determinations on these exemptions will be made after an individualized assessment of each situation. All decisions are final and not subject to an appeal.

Once an exemption is approved, if follow-up testing is required by the health care facility such as COVID testing, the testing is the sole responsibility of the student to meet the facility requirements.