



Covid-19 Vaccine Policy for Staff and Students

Dear Colleagues:

As you all know, COVID-19 is a serious infection that can have long term debilitating, even fatal results. During these past 14 months, as most colleges, we have used a variety of approaches to contain this pandemic: social distancing, enhanced cleaning, controlled access to facilities, and remote working and learning.

We now have a powerful new weapon to combat the ravages of Covid: three safe and effective vaccines, which are proven to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmission and the risk of serious illness when the disease is contracted. Major American universities played an important role in the research and development of these vaccines, and we are following their lead in requiring students and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Widespread vaccination is the only way to facilitate a return to a normal, robust campus life while assuring the health and safety of others. At Simmons, the safety and well-being of our entire family of students, faculty, and administration are our highest priority. Vaccination against COVID-19 is essential.

With this in mind, we now require all employees and all new and returning Simmons students to be fully vaccinated against Covid by August 10, 2021. We will make exemptions only for documented medical and religious reasons, though we will follow CDC guidelines and request that exempted, unvaccinated people wear masks. We cannot, however, provide remote learning or teaching opportunities, other than courses already designated on the course schedule as remote courses.

We will support our students and staff by facilitating access to the free COVID-19 vaccination appointment and will post this information soon. Students needing more information should contact studentsupport@simmonscollegeky.edu. Staff should contact our HR Director Debbie McDonald, dmcdonald@simmonscollegeky.edu.

While we understand vaccine hesitancy, particularly among the African American community, we also know that our family is best served when all who are together are safe and confident that everyone is safe. We are eager to return to in-person fellowship and learning so that our students can benefit from the full HBCU experience. Remember, fall classes being August 23, 2021. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin W. Cosby,
President