

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Beckman Center Fellows and Othmer Library Patrons

(As of 08/26/2021)

The Science History Institute is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace. Since March 2020, the Institute has implemented policies and procedures that followed the guidance and directives of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the governor of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Departments of Health. The health and safety of Institute employees is of paramount importance. Due to the increased transmissibility of the Delta variant, the Institute is taking additional measures to protect employees, their families, and Institute visitors from contracting and spreading COVID-19.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted full approval for one vaccine and Emergency Use Authorization for two vaccines in the U.S. These vaccines are all available to the public at no cost. The World Health Organization (WHO) has finalized their analysis of several vaccines in countries outside of the U.S. approved for emergency use. (See <https://www.who.int/news/item/07-05-2021-who-lists-additional-covid-19-vaccine-for-emergency-use-and-issues-interim-policy-recommendations> for the most current listing.) The Institute is implementing a mandatory vaccination policy for all Beckman Center fellows and Library patrons that use the Othmer Library to protect employees, fellows, and all Library patrons. All fellows and Library patrons must be fully vaccinated (as defined by the CDC) before they are permitted to gain access to the building.

Compliance with this policy is mandatory.

I. Information About COVID-19 Vaccines

The CDC has promoted the benefits and safety of the available COVID-19 vaccines. Public health officials at all levels of government also have recommended that everyone who is 12 and older and can safely do so should get vaccinated against COVID-19. According to the CDC:

- The current vaccines do not contain the COVID-19 virus and will not make you sick with the virus.
- Getting a vaccine will not make you test positive for COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are highly effective at preventing you from getting sick with COVID-19 and experiencing the most severe consequence of the disease.
- COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines do not change your DNA.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are an important tool in helping to stop the pandemic.

- COVID-19 vaccines will be free to you, though in the U.S. your insurance company may be billed for some charges.
- More information about COVID-19 vaccines and the U.S. vaccine approval process is available and frequently updated on the CDC's website at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/>

II. Continued Applicability of Other Infection Control Policies and Protocols

This COVID-19 Vaccination Policy is a key part of the Institute's strategy and commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy supplements other COVID-19 prevention measures implemented by the Institute.

The Institute needs your full cooperation and compliance with this and other health and safety policies to make them effective.

III. Vaccination Requirements

By Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, all current fellows must:

- Ensure that they are fully vaccinated with a one-dose vaccine, e.g., Johnson & Johnson vaccine, that has been granted an Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA; or
- Ensure that they are fully vaccinated with both doses of any two-dose vaccine, e.g., Pfizer which has been fully approved, or Moderna that has been granted an Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA.
- Ensure that they are fully vaccinated with a vaccine approved for emergency use by the WHO.

Effective Monday August 30th, all new fellows and all Library patrons must be fully vaccinated prior to their first day at the Institute.

IV. Proof of Vaccination

By Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, current fellows must provide Charlotte Abney Salomon with written proof of vaccination, including the vaccination place, date(s), your name, and vaccine lot number. Do not include any medical or genetic information with your proof of vaccination. The Institute will keep your vaccination information confidential.

Effective August 30th, 2021, all new incoming fellows must provide Charlotte Abney Salomon with written proof of vaccination, including the vaccination place, date(s), your name, and vaccine lot number. Do not include any medical or genetic information with your proof of vaccination. The Institute will keep your vaccination information confidential.

Effective August 30th, 2021, all incoming Library patrons must show Library personnel proof of vaccination (physical copy or photo on the patron's phone), including the vaccination place, date(s), your name, and vaccine lot number.

V. Consequences of Refusing Vaccination

If a current fellow fails to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated by Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, their fellowship will be terminated. If a new fellow fails to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated by the start date of their fellowship, their fellowship will be deferred until the fellow can provide the necessary documentation. If the fellow fails to provide the proof that they are fully vaccinated eight weeks after the original start date of the fellowship, the Institute has the right to withdraw the fellowship offer.

If a Library patron fails to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated, they will not be granted access to the building until they provide the necessary documentation.

VI. Policy Administration and Questions

The Othmer Library is responsible for administering and enforcing this policy. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact Michelle DiMeo, Arnold Thackray Director of the Othmer Library at mdimeo@sciencehistory.org.

VII. Policy Modification

Government and public health guidelines and restrictions and business and industry best practices regarding COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines are changing rapidly as new information becomes available and further research is conducted. The Institute reserves the right to modify this policy at any time in its sole discretion to adapt to changing circumstances and business needs, consistent with its commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace.