

**Recommendation for Students and Residents  
participating-in the care of patients with known or suspected COVID-19 infection**

**GME PROCESS**

Residents and fellows are already caring for COVID patients and this preceded the availability of the vaccination. Programs have worked with HR and their individual residents to adjust clinical assignments as needed and workflows have been adjusted as needed to minimize contact.

**UME PROCESS**

**Purpose:** To allow students who are at least two weeks past completing the full COVID-19 vaccination to opt-in to care for patients with known or suspected COVID-19 infection.

**Assumptions:** COVID-19 vaccines have received emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA. Under this authorization, the vaccine cannot be required. Nonetheless, the University of Arizona Colleges of Medicine (Phoenix and Tucson) strongly encourage students to complete a COVID-19 vaccination series using one of the vaccines available under EUA.

It is anticipated when the FDA gives full approval to one or more of the COVID-19 vaccines, this will be added to the list of required vaccinations for medical students, like annual flu vaccination, MMR, hepatitis B, etc.

**Guidelines:**

- Until vaccination is required, the default status is for students not to participate in the care of patients with known or suspected COVID-19 infection.
- Students who are fully vaccinated and who wish to opt-in to participating in the care of these patients must:
  - Upload proof of their full vaccination to the immunization tracking system for their school (COM-T: My Clinical Exchange; COM-P: My Record Tracker).
  - Individually notify the resident(s) and attending(s) on their team of their decision to opt-in.
- Students should not knowingly care for patients with known or suspected COVID-19 infection if they have not completed the COVID-19 vaccination at least 2 weeks earlier.
- Students may upload documentation of their COVID-19 vaccination even if they choose not to opt-in, as UA COM-T and COM-P anticipate the vaccine will ultimately be a requirement.
- All students are required to follow PPE requirements regardless of vaccine status.