COVID-19 Vaccination FAQ for International Students and Scholars

May 6, 2021

Yale Health has updated their FAQs for our international community [1] regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. The message, which is addressed primarily to new and continuing students who are outside the U.S., is included below.
These frequently asked questions may be helpful to Yale’s international students and scholars currently outside of the U.S. who are making plans to come or return to Yale in the summer or fall.

I was unable to get vaccinated at home. Can I be vaccinated when I arrive at Yale? Will I need to quarantine?

Vaccination prior to arrival is strongly encouraged. For those unable to do so, Yale is preparing to vaccinate any student or staff member who is not adequately vaccinated on arrival. Travel quarantine and testing upon arrival will be required per the university guidelines. [2] Yale will provide additional information about how to schedule vaccination upon arrival on campus once it becomes available.

Should I delay getting the vaccine offered in my home country and wait until I arrive at Yale?

COVID-19 continues to spread globally resulting in serious illness, hospitalizations and deaths. Vaccination slows transmission and prevents development and spread of virus variants so it is recommended that you get vaccinated as soon as possible with vaccine that is readily available.

Will Yale recognize the vaccines from other countries that are not yet approved in the U.S.?

Yale will accept the vaccines listed below with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the World Health Organization [3] (WHO).
U.S. Vaccines with FDA EUA

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Johnson & Johnson/Janssen

International vaccines authorized for emergency use by the WHO

(this list will be updated as new vaccines are approved)

- AstraZeneca
- Covishield (Serum Institute of India)
- Sinopharm (Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [4] currently considers people to be fully vaccinated if they are two weeks post the final dose of these vaccines.

I received a COVID-19 vaccine in another country (not one of the approved in the U.S. or by the WHO) and am now at Yale, should I be re-vaccinated here?

Re-vaccination is not recommended at this time. When more scientific information becomes available, Yale Health will keep the community updated on CDC guidelines regarding international vaccines. We will assist international students to comply with the university’s requirement, as
appropriate. It is possible that those who received international vaccines may be asked to re-vaccinate based on CDC guidance available in late summer. If a student or staff member needs to be vaccinated upon arrival at Yale, special vaccination clinics will be set up by Yale Health at no cost.

**I received one dose of a two-dose vaccine in another country, can I get the second dose at Yale?**

The only vaccines available for distribution in the U.S. are Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. If your first dose was not one of these three, recommendations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please email yhvaccine@yale.edu [5] for further guidance.

**What about antibody tests? Will they prove I have immunity to COVID-19?**

Blood tests for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 will not be accepted in place of vaccination. In general, this test is not recommended as proof of immunity to COVID-19 and is not recommended following vaccination to prove immunity. Vaccination is recommended for people who been infected with COVID-19 and for those with positive antibody tests.

**Can I put my vaccination information from outside Yale into my electronic medical record?**

Yes, and this includes vaccinations obtained through the Yale New Haven System (YNHH). You are encouraged to submit your COVID-19 vaccination record [6] to the university for COVID-19 monitoring across the Yale community.
I have more questions about my specific situation where can I get more information?

You can send your question to yhvaccine@yale.edu [5], call the Campus COVID-19 Resource Line at (203) 432-6604 or your primary care physician.

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