



August 24, 2021

To NSU students:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted full approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for people age 16 and over. Since December of 2020, the Pfizer vaccine has been available through Emergency Use Authorization, and more than 200 million doses have been administered in the U.S. alone.

The University of Louisiana System had previously requested that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), upon full approval by the FDA, add COVID-19 to the schedule of required immunizations for students at Northwestern State University and other UL System institutions. LDH granted this request.

Given yesterday's FDA approval, COVID-19 is now on the schedule of required immunizations for college students in Louisiana. Accordingly, I encourage all of our students to be vaccinated for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

The practical application is no different than the process you underwent to comply with our immunization policy upon your initial enrollment. Under current State law, the requirement is as follows:

Students must provide documentation of immunization against COVID-19 prior to the next registration period. Alternatively, students may provide one of the following: 1) documentation from a physician of medical contraindication for the vaccine, or 2) a written dissent for taking the vaccine.

The prevailing science tells us our return to normalcy depends on minimizing the impact of COVID-19 in our communities. The available vaccines help to prevent infection—lessening the spread of the virus, and provide remarkable protection against severe disease—reducing the strain on our healthcare infrastructure. To date, hundreds of millions of doses of the current COVID-19 vaccines have been administered and have proven to be safe and effective.

Your proof of COVID-19 vaccination, whether Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson, can be submitted by emailing Vaccine@nsula.edu. For those students who wish to provide written dissent to the required vaccine schedule, a form to complete that process is available here: [Immunization Compliance Form](#).

Again, I strongly encourage all students to be vaccinated for COVID-19 as soon as possible. Currently, students who are vaccinated on campus are eligible for a \$100 gift card through the Louisiana Department of Health. **NSU will host vaccination clinics on the following dates:**

- **Wednesday Aug. 25 – 7-8 p.m., Baptist Collegiate Ministry**
- **Thursday, Aug. 26 – 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Health Services**
- **Wednesday, Sept. 1 – 7-8 p.m., Baptist Collegiate Ministry**

To make an appointment visit <https://www.nsula.edu/health/>.

Students will be given a deactivated Visa card upon vaccination. After registering online at ShotFor100.com that card will be loaded with \$100. To learn more about the Shot for 100 program, visit ShotFor100.com or call Louisiana's COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774. In addition to learning more about Shot For 100, the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline can answer questions about the vaccines and connect callers to medical professionals.