



Poznań, 3 February 2022

## INFORMATION ON OBLIGATORY VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19

### Who will be eligible to participate in classes as from 1 March 2022?

If you are a student of the following degree courses: medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, midwifery, laboratory medicine, physiotherapy, emergency medicine, to be eligible to participate in classes as from 1 March 2022, you need to:

- a) have a **valid** EU COVID certificate,  
*or*
- b) be a convalescent, and no more than six months must have elapsed since you tested positive (you need to have official documents to prove your status),  
*or*
- c) have a medical opinion on contraindication to vaccination, issued by a specialist doctor in the field associated with the circumstances, excluding the possibility to get vaccinated.

### How will the eligibility to attend classes be verified?

**As of 7 February 2022**, you will be able to enter data from your EU COVID certificate, providing details concerning vaccinations or stating the status of a convalescent on the VISUS system. Additionally, you are required to upload a scan of the full version of the certificate, which will allow us to verify the data. If you have contraindications to vaccination, upload a scan of the medical opinion.

The teachers will get a list of persons eligible to attend classes based on that.

Detailed instructions on entering data and uploading documents will be available on the VISUS system.

### Will unvaccinated students be allowed to attend classes? If not, on what grounds?

Suppose you do not meet the obligation to provide information in the VISUS system by 28 February 2022 (valid vaccination, the status of a convalescent, medical opinion on contraindications). In that case, you shall be deprived of the possibility of participating in classes you shall not be allowed to attend.

This results from both the Regulation of the Minister of Health and PUMS Regulations.

Pursuant to the Regulation of the Minister of Health of 22 December 2021, amending the regulation of the Minister of Health on the announcement of the state of the epidemic in the territory of the Republic of Poland, pursuant to § 12a paragraph 1 item 3 of the regulation of 20 March 2020, students in education at specified fields of study are subject to the obligation of vaccination against COVID-19. Such vaccination should be deemed as required by the University, pursuant to separate provisions, and obligatory to participate in educational classes.

Pursuant to the regulations (§ 8 paragraph 3), students are required to submit, in a timely manner, to vaccinations required by the Medical University under separate laws - as needed for the participation in educational classes during which a risk of transmission of an infection or a contagious disease to other persons is present. Failure to get vaccinated shall result in the refusal *to participate* in classes and vocational practice.

Unvaccinated students may be allowed to participate in classes only in two situations:

- a) you have a convalescent status, whereas it shall only be valid for six months from the date of receipt of the positive test result for SARS-CoV-2 infection,
- b) you have a medical opinion issued by a specialist doctor on contraindications to vaccination.

Will separate or remote classes be organized for students without a valid EU COVID certificate (unvaccinated or persons without convalescent status)?

No, there is no such possibility.

Will students without a valid EU COVID certificate (unvaccinated or persons without convalescent status) be not permitted to attend direct classes only?

Yes, such students will not be permitted to attend any classes, regardless of their form.

Will the persons whose EU COVID certificate's validity expires before 1 March be permitted to attend classes after 1 March 2022?

No, permission to attend classes is determined by holding only a valid EU COVID certificate.

That document states:

- a) the validity date (vaccinated)
- b) the date of the positive result of the SARS-CoV-2 test (convalescents).

In the case of the vaccinated, the validity date of the certificate defines the date until which you are eligible to participate in classes.

In the case of convalescents, we count six months from the test date – this is the certificate validity period.

So, you will be required to upload documents anew only after the expiry of the dates as mentioned above, of which the system will notify you in an appropriate advance.

What about the situation when I get vaccinated or get a booster after 1 March?

You can complete your data in the VISUS system anytime by uploading a scan of the required documents. As soon as your data is verified by the University's Student Service Centre (completion of the full vaccination cycle or getting a booster extending the certificate's validity), you shall be enrolled on the list of students eligible to participate in classes.

Does not the verification of the EU COVID certificate constitute a breach of the regulations on personal data protection?

No, it does not constitute a breach of personal data. The obligation to verify students' status based on the EU COVID Certificate has been introduced by the Regulation of the Minister of Health.

Moreover, the regulations of GDPR apply here, indicating that personal data processing is possible if it is necessary for reasons concerning public interest within public health, such as protection against serious cross-border health threats (i.e. COVID-19 pandemic). Additionally, one can refer to the statutory regulations allowing data processing in case of:

- fulfilling the legal obligation of a data controller (the University must meet the obligation resulting from the Regulation of the Minister of Health);
- performing tasks required to protect vital interests of the data subject or another natural person, and tasks executed in the public interest (limiting virus transmission, protection of patients).

Moreover, it must be emphasized that data will be stored in a secured system with restricted access to information. Access to data shall only be granted to the employees processing the data and shall not be available to the teachers (they shall only get information about the persons eligible to attend classes).

**Will the above-mentioned degree courses students who are not permitted to attend classes be immediately deprived of their PUMS student status?**

Students without a valid certificate, or persons who do not provide information in the system allowing for their verification, shall not be automatically expelled from the University. However, due to the current pandemic and based on the law regulations, such students shall not be permitted to attend classes. In consequence, such lack of permission to attend classes may lead to other circumstances that may form the basis for launching the procedure of deleting a student from the enrolment list, and pursuant to § 56 paragraph 2 (points 1-3) of PUMS Regulations, these may include:

- no learning progress, which is stated when the level of curriculum completion excludes the possibility of passing the year of studies,
- failure to participate in compulsory classes;
- failure to pass the year or continued session period within the prescribed deadline.