



To all NRAO/GBO employees:

The purpose of this note is to remind you that pursuant to our COVID-19 Vaccination Policy (“Policy”) covered employees must receive a booster dose when eligible, and to inform you all about the extension of our current lockdown status through the end of February.

Booster Mandate:

As you are all aware, the nation is experiencing a very serious COVID-19 wave involving the Omicron variant. Our NRAO/GBO experience in recent months has been very serious. History: during 2020 and 2021, there were 20 positive Covid cases across the Observatories. Currently, there are 37 positive cases so far this month (January) – in one month, our staff have contracted more COVID than seen in the previous 21 months. To protect both our staff, and our families and communities in which we work, AUI’s Policy requires that all staff entering our facilities be up to date in their vaccinations, which now also includes receiving a booster dose when eligible.

As of the writing of this note, the guidance from the CDC is that every U.S. adult is now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster, as long as a certain number of months have passed since their last COVID-19 vaccine dose. The following chart for the Observatories details the eligibility requirements based on the type of vaccine and date of your original vaccination for all staff entering our facilities.

Employees who completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series (i.e., a 2-dose series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine) before September 1, 2021 are currently eligible for a booster and must be up-to-date on their vaccinations by March 1, 2022. Employees entering our facilities who were vaccinated on or after September 1, must follow the chart below to remain up-to-date on your vaccinations. Employees should follow the procedures set forth in our Policy for submitting proof of receipt of the booster dose.

Original Vaccine Series	Eligibility Date for employees vaccinated on or after September 1	Eligibility Date for employees vaccinated prior to September 1	Recommended Booster Brand
Pfizer	5 months after completion of primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine	March 1, 2022	All 3 authorized boosters are accepted
Moderna	5 months after completion of primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine	March 1, 2022	All 3 authorized boosters are accepted
Johnson & Johnson	2 months after completion of primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine	March 1, 2022	All 3 authorized boosters are accepted



It is important to understand that if you are entering our facilities, not up-to-date on your booster and are exposed to an individual with COVID, you must follow CDC guidance, which currently requires isolation **for a minimum of five days, and charge sick leave** (unless otherwise required by law), as we are unable to use NSF funds for this purpose. If you need an exemption from the booster requirement as an accommodation for a medical or religious reason, please following the procedures set forth in Section 1.5, Reasonable Accommodations, of the Policy. If you were approved for an exemption from the primary series vaccination requirement as an accommodation for a medical or religious reason, you are automatically exempt from the booster requirement, and do not need to make another accommodation request.

I want to encourage all of us to continue with our vigilance and take these important precautions to protect yourself, your co-workers, and your families from severe COVID infections.

Tony Beasley
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