

As part of our commitment to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of students, staff, and global host communities, **SIT requires students to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine prior to the start of their program.** [In accordance with the CDC](#), SIT considers students to be up to date once they have received:

a) The primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine (e.g. both doses of a two-dose vaccine and one dose of a single-dose vaccine);

AND

b) For students studying abroad in spring 2023 and beyond, the updated COVID-19 mRNA (bivalent) booster dose* recommended by the CDC. This bivalent booster can help restore protection that has decreased since previous vaccination and provide broader protection against newer variants. It targets the most recent Omicron subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5, that are more contagious and more resistant than earlier strains of Omicron. Additional information can be found on the [CDC's FAQ page](#).

In short, even if a student received the original monovalent booster, they still need to receive this updated bivalent booster to be in line with SIT requirements.

**Any student who resides in a country without access to the bivalent booster will only be required to have the primary series of the vaccine along with any booster dose that is available to them (such as a monovalent booster).*

c) In certain cases, any COVID-19 booster dose(s) required by the host country. (SIT adheres to CDC guidelines and recommendations for boosters as a minimum standard. In some locations, the host country government might require a different schedule of booster doses. If those requirements are more frequent or stricter than the CDC recommendations, SIT will comply with host country requirements.)

SIT understands that there are legitimate reasons why students may not be vaccinated against COVID-19. In turn, we provide the opportunity to petition for an exemption to our vaccination requirement on the grounds of medical reasons, sincerely held religious beliefs, or vaccine unavailability. Students may request a petition by emailing studentwellbeing@sit.edu.

This information, along with the complete outline for petitions proceedings and be viewed at <https://studyabroad.sit.edu/health-safety-and-well-being/risk-management/covid-19-risk-management-protocols/>

I have read and acknowledge SIT's COVID-19 Risk Management Protocols pertaining to vaccinations and understand that my participation may be withdrawn if a copy of my vaccination card, or approved petition is not received within three-weeks of my program start date.

Print Full Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

Date

