

Job Corps Updated COVID-19 Safety Protocols Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) No. 4

In December 2021, Job Corps issued Program Information Notice (PIN) 21-07 requiring testing of all returning students to center after winter break. Job Corps has experienced a surge in COVID-19 cases in staff and students. From January 1-5, 2022, the program documented that 9.5 percent of students returning from leave tested positive on day zero. In addition, approximately 1.5 percent of fully vaccinated students became symptomatic and tested positive within 3 days after arrival on center (after testing negative on day zero). Most of these cases are due to community transmission consistent with what we have seen throughout the pandemic.

Job Corps has received a number of questions about the implementation of PIN 21-07 in coordination with Job Corps' existing COVID-19 guidance and practices. The below FAQs answer many—but not all—of the questions we have received from staff and students. As in previous stages of the pandemic, implementation of Job Corps' COVID-19 safety protocols is an ongoing process. Job Corps welcomes additional questions and concerns from its students and staff as it considers additional FAQs and guidance to help centers implement these new protocols.

Entry testing of all students after winter break

1. Must centers test new enrollees/students and returning students?

Yes. PIN 21-07 applies to newly arriving students and those returning students from winter break leave. See JCDC Notice 21-086 Modified Testing Protocol for guidance on which type of test to deploy.

2. Should centers re-test students after arrival on center?

Yes. Center operators must re-test fully vaccinated students on days 3-5 after arrival on center, even if the students do not seem symptomatic. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students will continue to enter program quarantine and testing per PIN 21-07.

3. Must new enrollees who have not yet arrived on center complete [Program Instruction Notice 21-01 Attachment C COVID Vaccination Collection Form](#)?

Yes, these students must complete this form after approval for enrollment but before arrival on center. The center cannot require vaccination before arrival, but the center must provide referrals for vaccination to students who are not fully vaccinated.

4. Must centers obtain Regional Office approval before bringing in an outside provider to administer vaccinations on center?

No, but centers should make the Regional Office aware of this activity. Centers must ensure these individuals comply with all COVID-19 safety protocols and all center rules. Additionally, centers should limit the areas of center accessed by outside providers and provide clear instructions on which areas these providers may access and when.

Treatment of vaccinated students and unvaccinated students

5. Must all students continue to complete the daily symptom tracker?

Yes.

6. Must fully vaccinated students continue to socially distance?

Yes.

7. What if unvaccinated in-person students decline to test according to PIN 21-02?

As noted in PIN 21-01, centers must discontinue these students from in-person learning and transition them to distance learning. If a residential student, this student must be returned to their home of record.

8. Do PIN 21-02's quarantine requirements apply when a residential student moves from their original center to an Advanced Training center?

Yes. Residential fully vaccinated Advanced Training students do not need to quarantine upon arrival. Those who are not fully vaccinated must quarantine according to PIN 21-02.

9. Must students and staff continue to mask in center or shared vehicles?

Yes. Students and staff should mask and physically distance in vehicles regardless of vaccination status.

10. May centers allow students to train through off-center Work-Based Learning (WBL)? Is the waiver process still in place?

Job Corps recommends pausing WBL activities unless it is absolutely necessary for a student's successful completion of the program. Under existing policy, all students may train through WBL provided centers follow existing COVID-19 safety protocols. PINs 20-03 and 20-07 allow WBL with approval by a center's Regional Office. In the limited scenarios where it is approved, center should provide a plan for how they will keep students participating in WBL off-center distanced from students who are remaining on center.

11. Are centers allowed to issue personal time off to students?

Not at this time. After assessing potential safety risks, Job Corps has determined that centers should suspend non-essential personal time off, especially for students just returning from winter break. Centers must create a process for receiving and approving special off-campus leave and weekend pass requests as well as ensure that sufficient quarantine rooms and testing supplies are available for returning students. For on-center students who are not vaccinated, partially vaccinated (according to current CDC guidance), or decline to answer on vaccination status, centers must continue to maintain students' quarantine for seven days following approved, essential leave/PTO in accordance with PIN 21-02.

12. May centers plan off-center activities such as recreation trips for residential students?

Not at this time. Job Corps has determined that due to the high number of breakthrough cases of COVID-19 and the high community threat levels nationwide, centers should refrain from non-essential off-center activities, including recreational trips.

Staff procedures

13. Did the new PIN change staff COVID-19 safety requirements?

No. Center staff must continue to adhere to all requirements in place prior to publication of the PINs, unless they conflict with federal staff requirements applicable to employees of Civilian Conservative Centers, which are operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For contract staff, the Office of Special Procurement Executive (OSPE) will issue all future guidance on COVID-19.