



# University of Idaho

**TO:** University of Idaho Students  
**FROM:** Blaine Eckles, Dean of Students and Vice Provost for Student Affairs  
**DATE:** Aug. 18, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Vaccination Incentive Program Details Outlined

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Vandals—

On Aug. 12, [Gov. Brad Little](#) shared sobering information about COVID-19 and the effectiveness of the vaccine. He shared the following Idaho-specific facts about COVID-19:

Since Jan. 1, 2021:

- 98.9% of new COVID-19 cases were people not vaccinated;
- 98.6% of COVID-19 hospitalizations were people not vaccinated; and
- 98.7% of COVID-19 deaths were people not vaccinated.

According to the governor's update, the vaccine slows the spread of the disease, but epidemiologists with the State of Idaho say that with low vaccination rates and the highly contagious Delta variant circulating in Idaho communities — which is twice as contagious as the original strain — projections indicate **case counts could continue to increase through the fall and exceed last year's peak for daily case counts in as soon as two months.**

To help protect our Vandal Family, the U of I is offering incentives to all students, undergraduate and graduate (full- and part-time) who receive the vaccine. This effort will help us maintain our ability to remain open for in-person instruction. Please note, **the University of Idaho is strongly recommending but not requiring students to receive a vaccination.**

Students providing evidence of vaccination will receive a \$50 gift card award to one of the following:

- \$50 credit on your VandalCard for Idaho Eats (Moscow location only)
  - No physical gift cards will be provided for this award.
- \$50 gift card (either electronic or physical copy) to the VandalStore

Students who submit evidence of full vaccination will also be entered into a drawing for the chance to receive one of 10 \$1,000 tuition credit awards and one of two \$5,000 tuition credit awards. You must be enrolled full-time to be eligible for the \$1,000 or \$5,000 drawing.

Once verification of your vaccination has been received, the university will review it for gift card and drawing purposes. Any submitted documentation will not be retained by the university once the drawings are complete. For more information, review [U of I's Privacy Statement](#).

The first round of gift cards will be available starting the week of Sept. 6. The first drawing for five of the \$1,000 and one of the \$5,000 tuition credit awards will occur the week of Sept. 13.

The second round of gift cards and tuition credit drawings will occur at the end of October/early November. Students are only eligible to receive a gift card one time and a larger drawing prize (either \$1,000 or \$5,000) one time.

## **How to Get a Vaccine**

The university is hosting a limited number of vaccine clinics on campus this fall. [Register now](#). Vaccines are also available in [locations across the state](#).

## **How to Submit Your Verification**

Only electronic vaccination information will be accepted as part of the incentive program. If you want to receive a \$50 gift card and be entered into the tuition credit drawing you should enter your [vaccination verification online](#). *If you previously submitted vaccination information during the Spring and Summer 2021 to*

*be exempted from COVID-19 testing **you must resubmit your information*** if you want to receive the gift card or be eligible for the tuition credit award drawing. In addition, you must be currently enrolled to be eligible. The university reserves the right to request a physical copy of your vaccination information for verification purposes.

Email questions regarding the Vaccination Incentive Program to [covid19questions@uidaho.edu](mailto:covid19questions@uidaho.edu).

*Blaine Eckles*

*Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

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