New NIH Requirement for Logins

The National Institute of Health (NIH) is improving security and as a result is requiring stronger proof that a person logging into their system is who they say they are. This change will happen in two parts. Starting **September 15, 2021**, NIH is requiring multifactor authentication when logging in to their system, so the University is adding Duo 2-step verification. By **December 2022**, UNC will also have to provide appropriate levels of assurance of a person's identity with the highest level of assurance requiring that a person has presented a government-issued photo ID to UNC. Fortunately, the University already has these processes in place to verify these IDs for anyone who is issued a OneCard.

Who this affects

All faculty, and staff who access NIH systems.

More about the change

Starting **September 15, 2021**, when UNC faculty and staff log in to NIH systems, they will be required to do the Duo 2-step verification after they've entered their Onyen and password. Since UNC already requires Duo 2-step verification for many other systems, most employees should adapt to this change easily. In the case that someone needs to set up their Duo 2-step verification, they can follow these instructions on [how to add a device for 2-step verification](#).

The NIH is also requiring additional assurance of identity by **December 2022**. This means that along with the Duo 2-step verification, UNC also needs to assert to the NIH that identity of the faculty, or staff member has been appropriately vetted.

Preparing for the change
ITS is currently working with The Office of the University Registrar, and Human Resources to develop identity proofing processes to collect assurance information about faculty and staff. That information will be used to assert appropriate assurance levels to NIH and other services that require it.

Planned Communications

When this change gets closer, we'll be communicating with those affected, including ITEC and the Office of Sponsored Research. Along with communications from ITS, faculty and staff who log in to the NIH website will be alerted of the change when they see a notice that logins will soon require a multifactor authentication.