

COVID-19 Vaccination/Booster Exemption Criteria

(April 2022)

Vaccination exemption: In Missouri, there are only two options for receiving a vaccine exemption: medical or religious.

If you believe you meet the criteria for a medical or religious exemption (see below), you may request an exemption. However, **you must request an exemption at least two weeks prior to the start of your program date**, so that the SLU exemption team has time to process your request.

Here is what the exemption options mean:

Exemption due to a substantive medical reason: [CDC guidelines about medical reasons one cannot be vaccinated \(i.e., medical contraindications\)](#) serves as the basis for the SLU COVID-19 vaccination policy.

- If seeking a medical exemption, you will need to include a letter from your existing primary licensed healthcare provider detailing your need for medical exemption in your request.
- Exemptions completed by a physician friend or family member will not be accepted.
- Neither evidence of test results from recent infection nor antibody test results constitutes the basis for a medical exemption from the vaccine requirement policy.
- There are no appeals from the decision reached.
- The letter from your primary care provider must describe your specific contraindication to the COVID-19 vaccine:
 1. Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine.
 2. Immediate (within 4 hours of exposure) allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine.
 3. Other medical contraindication. Certifications in the “Other” category are subject to medical review, including consultation with your primary health care provider regarding the condition.

Exemption due to a sincerely held religious belief: A sincerely held religious belief is one that is either part of a traditional, organized religion such as Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism, as well as non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as to what is right and wrong, which are sincerely held with the strength of traditional religious views.

- Social, political or personal preferences do not qualify as a religious belief. If you have received other vaccinations, you will be expected to explain how or why the COVID-19 vaccine is different under your religious belief than the available vaccines to other diseases that you have received.
- If you have received prior COVID-19 vaccinations, please explain how or why the COVID-19 booster is different under your religious belief than the J&J, Pfizer or Moderna series with which you had been inoculated previously.
- Utilize the attached form and submit any and all information you wish to be considered. The form is a Word document and also available as a fillable PDF that you can use to write as much as you feel is needed to fully explain the basis of your exemption request. The decision regarding your request will be based solely on what you submit so it is imperative to state fully all information you wish to be considered as part of your request. There are no appeals from the decision reached.

Submit your exemption paperwork/documentation to vaccineexemption@slu.edu at least **two weeks prior** to the start of your program.