



SAINT ANTHONY COLLEGE OF NURSING

How to Request Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

SACN recognizes the following exemptions for students to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine:

- **Medical exemption:** You must have a medically documented, severe allergic reaction to a prior dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or to a component of the vaccine (either polyethylene glycol for the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines, or polysorbate for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine). This is a very rare exemption, and supporting documentation related to the allergic reaction must be sent to nancysanders@sacn.edu for review and consideration before an exemption is approved. To request a medical exemption, they must follow these steps complete the request form and return it to Nancy Sanders with appropriate medical documentation.
- **Religious exemption:** if a student holds a sincere religious belief contrary to vaccination, they may be exempt. Please note general philosophical or personal beliefs about the COVID-19 vaccine does not provide a sufficient basis for an exemption. The College of Nursing will work with each student who presents with a religious exemption. Depending on where the student does their clinical experience, they must please complete the request form with any appropriate documentation. Then, they must scan that form and email it to nancysanders@sacn.edu. The Leadership Team will review the request under the religious accommodations process.

The following medical reasons could temporarily defer or delay students from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine:

- They are currently experiencing a cough, fever, or headache associated with COVID-like symptoms, COVID-19 illness, or other infection.
- If they have recently received immunosuppressive therapy and are severely immunocompromised (i.e., chemotherapy)
- They are currently pregnant (Students who are breastfeeding, or trying to become pregnant, will not receive a vaccine deferral.)
- They have received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma as part of COVID-19 treatment in the past 90 days.

Additional documentation from their provider is required for temporary deferral review and approval. To request a deferral, depending on where student has clinical experiences, they should complete the form and write a letter for the exemption request to be submitted to Kevin Stephens at (Kevin.N.Stephens@osfhealthcare.org) for approval.

Important Notice: An exemption granted by Saint Anthony College of Nursing may or may not meet the requirements as set by individual clinical agencies. Students MUST meet the requirements of each agency in which they have clinical experience. If a clinical agency does not allow a student to attend clinical experiences because the student was not appropriately vaccination, it could be reflected on a clinical course grade, thus impacting a student's ability to graduate.