

REQUEST FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM VACCINATIONS



Updated: August 27, 2021

Introduction

Jersey College is committed to providing an accessible learning environment. This learning environment is both within the confines of the College and at clinical sites utilized for practicum experiences in our Nursing programs. Participation in practicum experiences involves risks for exposure to serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases. To minimize these risks and reduce the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases, the clinical sites utilized for practicum experiences by the College require students and faculty to maintain up-to-date vaccinations or present evidence of Vaccinations for certain communicable diseases, including, but not limited to Tuberculosis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Flu, and COVID-19. As such, evidence of these vaccinations is a required element for registration in nursing courses with practicum experiences.

National standards and general recommendations for vaccinations have been established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), including valid contraindications and precautions to vaccinations. These standards and recommendations may be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>

Individuals with **sincerely held religious beliefs** against vaccination may request a religious exemption from vaccination requirements. *Objections to vaccinations based on grounds which are not religious in nature and which are of a philosophical, moral, secular, or more general nature are unacceptable.*

Granting of a religious exemption is a collaborative process that involves the College working closely with the student and the clinical facilities. The initial step in the collaborative process is the completion of this Request for Religious Exemption from Vaccinations form with supporting documentation.

An individual's refusal to complete this form and provide supporting documentation will impact the College's ability to adequately understand the individual's request and effectively engage in the interactive process to identify possible accommodations.

IMPORTANT: Participation in hands-on nursing activities at healthcare facilities is an essential element of the curriculum and a requirement of licensing and regulatory bodies. Individuals are advised that to the extent that a religious exemption accommodation is unavailable at a healthcare facility they will be offered one of the following choices: (i) the opportunity to participate in a preceptorship (i.e., for students requesting accommodation¹) or an alternative position (i.e., for faculty requesting accommodation if available and if qualified) or (ii) a religious leave of absence.

¹ Student is solely responsible for identify, finding and obtaining approval for the preceptorship experience. A preceptorship package is available from administration.

Instructions

- A. **Who Should File the Application:** Individuals seeking a religious exemption related to: (i) vaccination requirements of clinical facilities utilized for practicum experiences in our Nursing programs or (ii) vaccination requirements of a regulatory agency.
- B. **Application Submission Deadline:** Completed applications must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the date for which you are requesting the exemption.
- C. **Application:** To request the religious exemption individuals must complete this Request for Religious Exemption from Vaccinations form and provide supporting documentation.
- D. **Reviews of Requests:** Review of a request for a religious exemption will be deferred until the necessary documentation is submitted. All applications should be typed or neatly printed. Do not leave sections blank. Put NA if the section does not apply.
- E. **Confidentiality.** While all religious and supporting documentation submitted will be kept confidential by the College, individuals are notified that evaluating the request for religious exemption necessitates that such information be shared with and reviewed by clinical facilities.
- F. **Determinations.** The final decision regarding a religious exemption from a vaccination remains with the clinical facilities where practicum experiences are scheduled to occur. Jersey College and our faculty and students are guests of these facilities and remain subject to their requirements for participation in practicum experiences.

Objections to vaccinations based on grounds which are not religious in nature and which are of a philosophical, moral, secular, or more general nature are unacceptable.

Important: Participation in hands-on nursing activities at healthcare facilities is an essential element of the curriculum and a requirement of licensing and regulatory bodies. Individuals are advised that to the extent that a religious exemption accommodation is unavailable at a healthcare facility they will be offered one of the following choices: (i) the opportunity to participate in a preceptorship (i.e., for students requesting accommodation¹) or an alternative position (i.e., for faculty requesting accommodation if available and if qualified) or (ii) a religious leave of absence.

- G. **Reasonable Accommodations.** Not all requested accommodations are "reasonable." An accommodation is not reasonable if, among other things:
 - Making the accommodation or having the individual involved in the activity poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
 - Making the accommodation means making a substantial change in an essential element of the curriculum or making the accommodation would require a substantial alteration in the manner in which educational opportunities are provided, including, but not limited to, the course objectives being altered, giving the individual an unfair advantage over other individuals, lowering academic standards, and significantly altering what is required of an individual to complete a class or program.
 - Making the accommodation means making a substantial alteration in the manner in which the institution provides services.
 - Making the accommodation would impose an undue financial or administrative burden to the institution.

H. **Supporting Documentation.** To assist the College and clinical sites with evaluating and assessing an individual's request for a religious exemption, the College requires the following supporting documentation:

- Past documentation of medical and immunization history
- Statements and explanations that discuss the nature and tenets of the asserted beliefs and information about when, where, and how you follow the practice or belief
- Written religious materials describing the religious belief or practice
- Written statements or other documents from third parties, such as religious leaders, practitioners, or others with whom you have discussed your beliefs, or who have observed your past adherence



JERSEY COLLEGE

Request for Religious Exemption from Vaccinations

(Please type or write legibly)

Instructions

To request a religious exemption from vaccinations, the individual must complete Part I of this form, provide the supporting documentation in Part II and sign and date the attestation in Part III. Individuals requesting an exemption must attach photocopies of all appropriate documentation.

The completed form (Part I, Part II and Part III) should be dropped off at the Administration Office. If you have any questions, please contact the Administration Office.

Name:

Last																				
First																				
Middle																				

Address:

Line 1																				
Line 2																				
Line 3																				
City																				
State																				

Other Data:

Cell				-				-						
Home				-				-						
Birthdate	Month			Day			Year							
Email														

Please list the reasonable accommodations you are requesting with respect to the religious exemption from vaccinations.



**Request for Religious Exemption from Vaccinations - Part II
Supporting Documentation**

(Please type or write legibly)

Please attach to your Request for Religious Exemption from Vaccinations the following documents:

- Past documentation of medical and immunization history;
- Written religious materials describing the religious belief or practice; **AND**
- Written statements or other documents from third parties, such as religious leaders, practitioners, or others with whom you have discussed your beliefs, or who have observed your past adherence.



**Request for Religious Exemption from Vaccinations - Part III
Attestation**

(Please type or write legibly)

Attestation of Individual Requesting Religious Exemption from Vaccinations

I declare and affirm that the statements made in this request, including accompanying documents and information, are true, complete, and correct. I understand that any false or misleading information in, or in connection with, my application may be cause for denial or loss of enrollment/employment (as applicable) at Jersey College.

I further understand that the information provided to Jersey College as part of this request for a religious exemption to vaccinations is confidential. Notwithstanding the foregoing, I consent and agree that any and all information submitted with this request for a religious exemption from vaccinations may be shared with and reviewed by clinical facilities where my practicum experiences are scheduled to occur.

I further understand and agree that participation in hands-on nursing activities at healthcare facilities is an essential element of the curriculum at Jersey College and that if a reasonable accommodation is unavailable I will be withdrawn from my program of study and/or my employment will be terminated, as applicable.

Signature of Person Requesting Exemption

Date