

# COVID-19 Vaccine: Requests for Medical Exemption

Physicians and APPs are receiving requests from their patients for verification of a medical reason that they should be exempted from COVID-19 requirements by their employers or other agencies. Responses can be in several formats such as a letter or filling out a form provided by the requesting entity.\*

## KEY POINTS WHEN RESPONDING TO A REQUEST

- **Follow the appropriate HIPAA-compliant patient authorization to provide release of medical information.** Best practice is to provide the completed form or letter to the patient; the patient can then choose with whom to further share the document. **If the patient or employer/agency insists that the provider disclose information directly to the employer or other third-party, written authorization for the disclosure must be provided by the patient.** HIPAA authorization forms can be found at the following links:
  - [English](https://kr.ihc.com/ckr/Dcmnt?hncid=520246647&tfrm=529850516&luid=) (https://kr.ihc.com/ckr/Dcmnt?hncid=520246647&tfrm=529850516&luid=)
  - [Spanish](https://kr.ihc.com/ckr/Dcmnt?hncid=520246647&tfrm=529850516&luid=) (https://kr.ihc.com/ckr/Dcmnt?hncid=520246647&tfrm=529850516&luid=)
- **Providers should answer questions truthfully** and should use the FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and CDC recommendations or clinical considerations to guide their response.
  - CDC clinical considerations for the COVID vaccines can be found [here](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html). (https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html)
  - EUA fact sheet for the Pfizer vaccine can be found [here](https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download). (https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download)
  - EUA fact sheet for the Moderna vaccine can be found [here](https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download). (https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download)
  - EUA fact sheet for the J&J vaccine can be found [here](https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download). (https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download)

## KNOWN CONTRAINDICATIONS TO COVID VACCINES

- **Allergic reaction:** Immediate (within 4 hours) or severe (e.g., anaphylaxis) allergic reaction to the vaccine or to a component of the vaccine.
  - Allergy to polysorbate (J&J vaccine or AstraZeneca vaccines only)
  - Allergy to polyethylene glycol [PEG] (mRNA vaccines – Pfizer or Moderna only)

## APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR DELAYING COVID VACCINES

- **COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment in the past 90 days.** This does not apply to antibody therapies not specific to COVID-19
- **Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Adults (MIS-A) in the past 90 days** and until clinical recovery including return to normal cardiac function
- **COVID-19 infection in the past 10 days** (isolation may be longer if immunocompromised).
  - Patient should be recovered from acute COVID-19 symptoms and afebrile for at least 24 hours.
- **Exposure to COVID-19 during the quarantine period.**

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- It may be appropriate to request delaying receipt of the COVID vaccine during treatment with certain chemotherapies or immunomodulatory or biologic therapies. Intermountain's recommendations regarding COVID vaccination of immunocompromised patients can be found [here](https://intermountainhealthcare.org/ckr-ext/Dcmnt?ncid=529861784). (<https://intermountainhealthcare.org/ckr-ext/Dcmnt?ncid=529861784>)

## MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT MAY IMPACT A SUBSEQUENT DOSE

- A history of myocarditis or pericarditis prior to receiving a dose of COVID vaccine is not a contraindication. Myocarditis or pericarditis after a dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) is a precaution to a subsequent dose of an mRNA vaccine. The patient may receive a J&J Janssen vaccine.

## EXCEPTIONS THAT MAY BE ALLOWED

- Pregnancy and treatment for infertility are not contraindications or precautions to vaccination. COVID vaccine is strongly recommended by the CDC and ACOG to protect pregnant women and their infants. Some employers or entities may allow women to delay vaccination until after delivery.

\*This document is not intended supersede a clinician's independent clinical judgement. It was produced in response to requests from providers for assistance in shared decision-making.