



Vaccine Medical Exemption Application Form

Statement of Medical Exemption for COVID-19 Vaccination

SECTION 1 – Requester Information		
Last Name	First Name	
GPRC Student ID Number or Employee Number (if applicable)		
Address		
City/Town	Province	Postal Code

SECTION 2 – Important Information

Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) requires that all students, staff, and community members attending our campuses be vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide proof of an approved exemption before the first day of the course(s) in which the student is registered, according to the COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Policy. An exemption may be requested on grounds protected under the Alberta Human Rights Act. This form relates to those seeking an exemption related to a disability, as defined under that Act.

Upon receipt of a completed vaccine medical exemption application form, GPRC will provide written notice of approval/rejection within three (3) business days. During this time of review, students/staff are not permitted on campus or to attend any in-person GPRC activities.

In order to request a valid exemption for medical reasons as outlined in the [Government of Alberta COVID-19 Immunization: Medical Exemption Policy](#), a student/staff/community member must complete this Statement of Medical Exemption form and submit the entire completed form to GPRC directly from a physician or nurse practitioner.

By submitting this form, I am asking that I/my child be exempted from vaccination requirements due to a medical condition. I certify that the information below was completed by myself / my child, and my/my child's physician or nurse practitioner.

1. I understand that should an outbreak occur, Alberta Health Services or GPRC may impose additional restrictions or requirement on me/my child for health and safety reasons which may not apply to others on campus who have been fully vaccinated.
2. I understand that GPRC may require me/my child to follow additional health and safety protocols, including, but not limited to:



- a. Mandatory COVID testing and disclosure of test results;
 - b. Masking and/or physical distancing; or
 - c. Remote working/learning.
3. I accept full responsibility for my / my child's health.
4. I understand and agree to comply with and abide by all GPRC COVID-19 policies and procedures, as amended from time to time.
5. I certify that the information below and attached is accurate and complete. I understand that I may be subject to disciplinary action if any of the information I provided in support of this exemption request is false.

Please note. "My child", "Parent", and "Legal Guardian" only applies when the medical exemption is for someone under 18-years of age.

Signature of Student/Staff/Parent/Legal Guardian	Date
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Risks of Not Being Vaccinated:

You may be more likely to be exposed to the COVID-19 virus than others if you live in a group setting or participate in group activities in closed/crowded spaces where the COVID-19 virus may transmit more easily.

COVID-19 can result in severe illness. Those who are at particular risk of developing more severe disease or outcomes from COVID-19 are people:

- who are an older adult (increasing risk with each decade, especially over 60 years)
- of any age with chronic medical conditions, including: lung disease, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, dementia, or stroke
- of any age who are immunocompromised, including those with an underlying medical condition, such as cancer or those taking medications which lower the immune system, such as chemotherapy
- living with obesity, such as having a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or higher

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect our families, communities, and ourselves against COVID-19. Evidence indicates that vaccines are effective at preventing serious outcomes, such as severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19. A growing body of evidence indicates that people fully vaccinated are less likely to have asymptomatic infection or to transmit COVID-19 to others.

Sources:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html#vaccination>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>



Please provide this form to your physician or nurse practitioner for completion.

SECTION 3 – Declaration of Physician or Nurse Practitioner

The [College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta \(CPSA\)](#) has advised all Physicians as follows:

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for nearly every individual aged 12 or older. There are no medical conditions that would universally warrant a complete exemption from initial COVID-19 vaccine. A physician's informed clinical judgement that an exemption from COVID-19 vaccination is appropriate for a patient is expected to be exceedingly rare and must be thoroughly documented in the patient's chart. Physicians are expected to reassess COVID-19 vaccine exemptions periodically to account for updates to vaccination evidence and the potential emergence of newly-approved vaccines. Issuing "blanket" or "lifetime" exemptions would be considered unprofessional.

(CPSA, September 15, 2021. Guidance for physicians: requests for COVID-19 vaccination exemptions. <https://cpsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Guidance-for-Physicians-COVID19-Vaccine-Exemption.pdf>.

Full document included in this document).

Given the stated rarity of these exceptions, and in light of the fact that vaccines have been proven to be both safe and effective, any notes written for patients who qualify for a medical exemption need to clearly specify:

- the medical reason for which the exemption is being given;
- whether the patient is partially immunized (i.e. received a first dose); and,
- a date by which the exemption expires and/or a date for reassessment.

I, _____

(Name of physician or nurse practitioner)

Certify that, due to a medical condition, the named person should be exempted from the requirements of Grande Prairie Regional College for persons attending on-campus activities to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with a Health Canada-approved or WHO-approved vaccine.

From _____

To _____ (up to one year)



Please state the reason(s) for the accommodation request here.

Please describe the nature of the condition that precludes vaccination. Please state whether or not the condition is expected to be permanent. It is not necessary to provide a diagnosis.

Please explain how this accommodation request complies with the CPSA and Alberta Public Health guidance set out above.



SECTION 4 – Signature of Physician or Nurse Practitioner		
Name of Physician		Registration/Licence No.
Name of Nurse Practitioner		
Business Address		
Address		
City/Town	Province	Postal Code
Signature of Physician or Nurse Practitioner		Date

The Physician or Nurse Practitioner must submit the properly completed form to covidexemption@gprc.ab.ca

The information provided on this exemption form is being collected under the authority of section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act) and in accordance with the Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders 44-2021 and 45-2021, as outlined by the province of Alberta. This information will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility for proof of a medical exemption as per GPRC's COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Policy and will be only retained for the length of time necessary to fulfill the purpose for which it was collected. Information may also be disclosed to provincial or federal authorities if required by law. De-identified aggregated data will be used to track the overall vaccination level of the GPRC community.

Additional information on the privacy aspects of this program are available at gprc.me/COVID19. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, contact foip@gprc.ab.ca.

COVID-19 Immunization: Medical Exemption Policy

September 24, 2021

This Policy is issued under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH).

Purpose

The purpose of the Policy is to outline the conditions that constitute a medical exemption from COVID-19 immunization.

Policy Direction

Almost all Albertans can receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and should. Religious and philosophical exemptions are not permitted.

Medical Exemptions

The following conditions constitute a medical exemption from COVID-19 immunization:

- Had an anaphylactic reaction following the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, has been assessed by an allergist/immunologist, and future doses of any COVID-19 vaccine (viral vector or mRNA) are contraindicated,
- Developed a serious adverse event following COVID-19 immunization (e.g., Guillain-Barré syndrome, Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM)) and a MOH has determined that future doses of COVID-19 vaccine are contraindicated, or
- Had an anaphylactic reaction to a component of COVID-19 vaccine that restricts administration of any COVID-19 vaccines available in Canada.

In addition, individuals who are participating in COVID-19 vaccine trials (eg. Medicago) are eligible for a medical exemption.

Medical Deferrals

Medical deferrals (postponement) of the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine may be indicated in certain situations. If deferral is recommended, a medical exemption letter can be provided explicitly stating the length of time for which the exemption is valid.

Examples of reasons for medical deferrals include:

- Developed myocarditis following the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and it is recommended to defer the second dose of mRNA vaccine until more data is available,
- Developed a serious adverse event following COVID-19 immunization (e.g. Bell's palsy) following immunization and MOH has recommended deferral of second dose until individual has recovered,
- Had an anaphylactic reaction following the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and awaiting allergist assessment, or
- Solid organ transplant recipients or Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) recipients post transplant until clearance is received to resume immunization.

Medical Exemption Letter

As per CMOH Order 43-2021, the vaccine medical exemption letter must be written by a physician or nurse practitioner and must include the following:

- Name of the individual to whom the exemption applies; (and should include their address)
- Name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional;
- Date on which the written confirmation was provided;
- Length of time the exemption is valid (up to one year from the date on which written confirmation was provided).

The vaccine medical exemption letter should also include statement that there is a medical reason for the individual's exemption from being fully immunized against COVID-19; however, do not include specific information about the nature of the medical contraindication to immunization.

The Policy applies only to COVID-19 immunization in the context of Alberta's Restrictions Exemption Program. See [COVID-19 info for Albertans](#) for more information on the Program.

For additional information see [COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group Rapid Brief – Medical Exemptions for COVID-19 Vaccine](#) Table 1 and 2. (September 7, 2021)

Guidance for physicians: Requests for COVID-19 vaccination exemptions

OVERVIEW

COVID-19 transmission remains a concern in our communities, and CPSA strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination to anyone who is eligible. While COVID-19 vaccination is not mandatory in Alberta, an increasing number of schools, businesses and jurisdictions are now requiring students, staff and visitors to be fully vaccinated. This is driving an increased number of Albertans to clinics to request medical exemptions from COVID-19 vaccination.

CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING

CPSA continues to review the latest information on contraindications and precautions for COVID-19 vaccination. We advise physicians to inform their decision-making based on the [recommendations](#) from the Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group and to familiarize themselves with the latest resources (see page 3) set out by Alberta Health, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Physicians have access to readily available information about specific conditions for certain patients for whom a first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine should be recommended. It is clear the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for nearly every individual aged 12 or older. There are no medical conditions that would universally warrant a complete exemption from initial COVID-19 vaccine. A patient's or physician's individual moral objection to vaccination is not considered sufficient clinical rationale for exemption of vaccination against COVID-19.

COVID-19 VACCINATION DURING PREGNANCY

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for pregnant individuals and their babies, with mRNA vaccines being the safest type of COVID-19 vaccine to get during pregnancy. Patients may get the vaccine at any time, during any trimester, of pregnancy. A viral vector vaccine may be offered to pregnant individuals when other COVID-19 vaccines are contraindicated or inaccessible. AHS is reporting that the fourth wave of COVID-19 and the Delta variant could have significant adverse effects on unvaccinated pregnant patients:

- In August 2021, six pregnant Albertans were admitted to ICU due to COVID-19. All of them were unimmunized. Only seven pregnant Albertans were admitted to ICU for COVID-19 during the entire first year of the pandemic from March 2020 to March 2021.
- In the six cases that AHS saw in August 2021, COVID-19 had severe impacts on the parents' health and also the child's. Five preterm births occurred as early as 29 weeks.
- Pregnant patients are at a higher risk of severe disease and complications, such as ICU admission requiring ventilation and preterm birth. The threshold for admission is lower and they can get sick faster.
- Pregnant women with co-morbidities such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease are potentially at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease.

Guidance for physicians: Requests for COVID-19 vaccination exemptions

MANAGING CHALLENGING INTERACTIONS

CPSA supports physicians who decline to issue exemptions when the patient making the request does not have a warranting medical condition. We also recognize interactions with patients on this topic may become emotional and difficult. If a patient becomes abusive toward a physician, staff member or other patients because a vaccination exemption request is denied, that patient may be asked to leave the premises. Physicians are not expected to tolerate this type of behaviour and have the right to immediately discharge patients who act in this manner from their practice under the [Terminating the Physician-Patient Relationship](#) standard of practice.

To avoid potential conflict with upset patients, CPSA is supportive of clinic staff screening patients before their arrival to determine if the nature of the visit is related to an exemption request. In some instances, these types of assessments may be conducted virtually to avoid an in-person confrontation. For assessments that must be conducted in-person, physicians may want to employ a buddy system to avoid being alone in a room, or advise the patient that they will be contacted at a later date, by phone, with a decision.

EXPECTATIONS FOR EXEMPTIONS

A physician's informed clinical judgement that an exemption from COVID-19 vaccination is appropriate for a patient is expected to be exceedingly rare and must be thoroughly documented in the patient's chart. Physicians are expected to reassess COVID-19 vaccine exemptions periodically to account for updates to vaccination evidence and the potential emergence of newly-approved vaccines. Issuing "blanket" or "lifetime" exemptions would be considered unprofessional.

In the rare event a physician provides a patient with an exemption from COVID-19 vaccination, the physician should clearly state in writing:

- The patient's name and contact information;
- The medical reason for which the exemption is being given;
- Whether the patient is partially immunized (i.e., received a first dose); and
- A date by which the exemption expires and/or a date for reassessment.

EVIDENCE-BASED ADVICE

The professional advice patients receive from their physicians is very likely to inform discussions with their schools, workplaces and businesses they visit. Knowing this, it is critical for advice from physicians on COVID-19 vaccination to be rooted in the latest evidence. All Albertans, including the rare few who would qualify for an exemption from COVID-19 vaccination, must also receive accurate and founded advice on how to mitigate risk in their communities. An exemption from COVID-19 vaccination should not be misinterpreted as a "free pass," and the patient should be made aware of their elevated risk of acquiring, transmitting and experiencing severe outcomes from COVID-19.

Guidance for physicians: Requests for COVID-19 vaccination exemptions

CPSA continues to encourage all physicians to advocate in favour of public health precautions, such as indoor masking, physical distancing, monitoring for symptoms and heightened hygiene practices.

RESOURCES

1. [CPSA Patient FAQ: Exemption Requests for Vaccination](#)
2. [CPSA FAQ: Mask Use Exemption Letters](#)
3. [CPSA Patient FAQ: Exemption Requests for Mandatory Masking](#)
4. Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group Rapid Brief. [Medical Exemptions for COVID-19 Vaccine: Jurisdictional Scan](#). September 7, 2021.
5. National Advisory Council on Immunization: [Statements and Publications](#).
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Specific Groups](#).
7. Alberta Health. [COVID-19 Vaccine Questions and answers for the public and healthcare practitioners](#). July 13, 2021.



COVID-19 Rapid Testing and Test Disclosure Protocol

All individuals who have been granted a medical exemption for COVID-19 vaccination are required to participate in this COVID-19 Rapid Testing and Test Disclosure Protocol to attend GPRC campus activities.

Protocol

1. Individual must be tested within 72-hours to attend campus.
2. Individuals are responsible to book their appointment based on availability and their schedule.
3. GPRC will provide information on test providers.
4. Individual must wait for the test result before accessing campus.
5. Test results may be sent directly to GPRC from test provider with consent or uploaded by the individual through myGPRC (students) or staffcovid@gprc.ab.ca (faculty and staff).
6. If an individual tests positive, they are required by law to follow Alberta Health Services requirements.
7. Proof of vaccination, including test result, information is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Alberta) and shall be used, accessed, and disclosed in accordance with the legislation and relevant GPRC records management policies.

Please note: Failure to participate in rapid testing and disclosing the results will be treated as a violation and the individual will not be permitted to attend GPRC on-campus activities and may be subject to disciplinary measures including expulsion or termination from GPRC.