



Vaccine Religious Exemption Application Form

Statement of Religious Belief 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 religious 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 an exemption for reasons related to a religious belief, a student/staff/community member must complete this form and submit the entire completed form to GPRC directly. Only completed forms will be reviewed by GPRC.

If an exemption is approved, it will remain in effect for the period of time specified by GPRC. Any exemptions will be subject to the requirements outlined below and any other conditions specified by GPRC. Should an exemption request be denied, you will be informed.

By submitting this form, I am asking that I/my child be exempted from vaccination requirements due to a religious belief.

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 Proof of Vaccination policies and procedures, as amended from time to time.
5. I certify that the information below was completed by myself/my child, my/my child's religious leader, and/or the witness identified below.
6. 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.

Note. "My child", "Parent", and "Legal Guardian" only applies when the exemption is related to religious beliefs for someone under 18-years of age.

Signature of Student/Staff/Parent/Legal Guardian	Date
--	------

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 religious leader for completion.

SECTION 3 – Declaration of Student/Staff

Please explain within the text box below or by way of an attached letter why you are unable to be vaccinated due to your religion. Please ensure you provide background on your religious belief and connect the religious belief to the reason you are requesting an exemption. If possible, please provide supporting documentation published by religious leaders or others practicing your religion.

Length of affiliation with religious belief. If possible, provide supporting documentation by religious leaders or others practicing your religion.



SECTION 4 – Declaration of Religious Leader or Witness

(witness may be a parent or guardian)

I, _____
(Name of religious leader)

Certify that, due to a religious belief, 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.

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

Please describe the religious belief(s) that preclude the person from being vaccinated.

SECTION 5 – Signature of Religious Leader

Name and Role of Religious Leader

Business Address

Address

City/Town

Province

Postal Code

Signature of Religious Leader

Date

SECTION 6 – Signature of Commissioner of Oaths**SWORN OR SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED
before me at**

(Municipality)

(Province)

(Country)

On

(dd/mm/yyyy)

Signature of Commissioner of Oaths

Print name

Signature of Student/Staff

As per section 366 of the Criminal Code, it is an offence to make a false document, knowing it to be false, with intent that a person should be induced, by the belief that it is genuine, to do or to refrain from doing anything.

The properly completed form must be submitted 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 religious 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 Rapid Testing and Test Disclosure Protocol

All individuals who have been granted a religious 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.