

Indoor Dining Location Worker COVID-19 Vaccination Religious Exemption Request

Instructions:

Philadelphia's indoor dining COVID-19 vaccination mandate allows for indoor dining location workers with a sincerely held religious belief against vaccination to continue working where the employer accepts the worker's attestation of that belief which prevents them from receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.¹

You must request a religious exemption from your employer prior to working onsite in an indoor dining location. Employers are permitted to impose requirements for vaccination that are stricter than what is required under City law and your employer may choose NOT to accept your request under certain circumstances. If your request is not granted, you may not work indoors. If your request is granted you must double-mask and submit to weekly COVID-19 testing.

What Must Be Included in My Request?

1. To work at a location where food or drink is provided or sold for eating or drinking onsite, your request for a religious exemption must include a physical copy of your signed attestation, which must also contain the following:
 - a. A statement that the employee holds a sincerely held religious belief not based on philosophical, moral, or other non-religious objection which prevents them from receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.
 - b. The SAMPLE FORM included on the following page may be used, an alternate format may be presented and taken as valid certifications of religious exemption IF all information on the SAMPLE FORM is also captured in any alternate format.
2. Your employer is allowed to request additional information from you regarding your request if they determine it is appropriate to do so.

What Is the Process for Requesting to Work Indoors with a Religious Exemption?

1. Complete and sign your attestation form as provided by your employer or the SAMPLE FORM
2. Provide a physical copy with all information included above to your employer prior to your next in-person shift

What Are Requirements While Working with a Religious Exemption?

1. Workers must double mask while indoors
 - a. Double masking means wearing a surgical mask beneath a well-fitting cloth mask, or a properly fitted N95 or equivalent mask except when you are eating or drinking while seated during a designated break time in a designated worker-only space.
2. Workers must test using a PCR or antigen test at least weekly. Workers must provide all testing results to their employers, who must keep a record of such results.²
3. Businesses may also implement additional COVID-19 protocols or procedures to protect the safety of staff and other customers.

¹ Philosophical, moral, or other non-religious objections to receiving the vaccine do not meet the standard required for a sincerely held religious belief. Employers may request supporting documentation, including any prior objections to other vaccinations on the basis of the worker's sincerely held religious belief, or documentation from the worker's religious or faith community leaders.

² Employers may accept results of home-based rapid antigen tests, however, tests performed at home may be subject to additional verification requirements as set

SAMPLE FORM – RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO COVID-19 VACCINATION

I, (insert worker's name) attest that I possess a sincerely held religious belief against vaccination against and to the below listed COVID-19 vaccines.

- o Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine
- o Moderna COVID -19 Vaccine
- o Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine
- o Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 Vaccine

My sincerely held religious belief is based on my (insert religious or faith community's statements against COVID-19 vaccination). I attest that I am a member of (insert religious or faith community) at (religious or faith community's mailing address, if applicable) and that I do not make this objection on moral, philosophical, or other non-religious grounds.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I, (insert worker's name) attest that this sincerely held religious belief requires a religious exemption to the City of Philadelphia's December 15, 2021 Emergency Regulation Governing the Control and Prevention of COVID-19 ("Mandating Vaccines for Individuals Working and Dining at Indoor Dining Locations")

According to Section 1-108 of the Philadelphia Code, **I also certify that the statements contained herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if I knowingly make any false statement herein, I am subject to such penalties as may be prescribed by statute or ordinance.**

Signed: _____

Date: _____