



## COVID-19 Immunization Exemption-Religious

Student's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) [requires a COVID-19 vaccine](#) for all students who intend to be on campus for any period of time starting in fall 2021. A student may be exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement if that student holds a genuine and sincere religious belief which prohibits vaccination. A sincerely held religious belief is one that is either part of a traditional, organized religion or non-theistic (not having or involving a belief in a god or gods) moral or ethical beliefs as to what is right and wrong which are sincerely held with the strength of traditional religious views. Social, political, or personal preferences do not qualify as a religious belief for purposes of this exemption.

### INSTRUCTIONS

A student seeking a religious exemption must submit this form with both parts one and two completed.

Part 1: Student Personal Statement

Part 2: Student Responsibility for Religious Exemption

Upon completion, students should upload the signed form to the SAIC Health Services Patient Portal at [saic.mediatconnect.com](http://saic.mediatconnect.com).

Please allow at least 10 business days for your request to be reviewed. At any time, SAIC reserves the right to request additional documentation, including but not limited to documentation from your religious organization regarding the basis of your beliefs which are contrary to the practice of vaccinations or the use of vaccines. Submitting a request for an exemption does not guarantee it will be approved. You will receive a message from SAIC's Office of Student Affairs regarding the status of your exemption. If approved, the exemption will remain in effect for the duration of the 2021-22 academic year. Requests must be renewed annually.

### PART 1: STUDENT PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please submit a written statement (or, if you are under the age of 18, your parent or guardian can submit) explaining why you are requesting this religious exemption, detailing the religious basis of your objection to immunizations (or if your religious beliefs do not prohibit all vaccinations, the basis for the objection to the COVID-19 vaccination) and the religious principles guiding your objection.

The specific details of my religious objection to the COVID-19 immunization are as follows (*attach additional documentation if necessary*):

Describe whether and how this religious belief has precluded you from receiving vaccinations to other diseases such as measles, mumps and rubella, or the seasonal flu shot.

If you have received other vaccinations, please explain how or why the COVID-19 vaccine is different under your religious belief than the other available vaccines to other diseases that you have received.

## **PART 2. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION**

I understand that, as a result of not being vaccinated, I am accepting the potential consequences associated with this decision. By requesting a religious exemption to COVID-19 vaccination, I agree to the following:

- I understand the risks of not being vaccinated against COVID-19 and accept full responsibility for my health. I release and indemnify SAIC from any liability related to any exposure to and/or injury from COVID-19 or related to COVID-19, which may arise out of accessing SAIC's premises or in the course of attending any off-campus SAIC-sponsored activities, including but not limited to any such claims that may arise out of the negligence of SAIC.
- I understand that in the event of an outbreak or threatened outbreak of COVID-19, I may be temporarily excluded from accessing campus, including but not limited to attending classes, using facilities, entering residence halls, and/or attending off-campus SAIC-sponsored activities. I agree to comply with these restrictions and accept responsibility for communicating with my faculty and advisors. I further understand that restrictions from campus, including but not limited to classes and living spaces, do not entitle me to any reduction in tuition, housing charges, or other school fees.
- If I contract COVID-19 or any other communicable or contagious disease, I will immediately report it to SAIC's Wellness Center and comply with the isolation and quarantine procedures specified by SAIC and remove myself from the SAIC community if so instructed.

- I will comply with all guidance provided by SAIC, including guidance for unvaccinated individuals. This may include but is not limited to wearing a mask and social distancing while on campus.
- I certify that the information I have provided is accurate and complete.
- I enter this request for exemption and waiver as a free and voluntary act.
- I am at least 18 years of age, or if I am under 18 years of age, my legal guardian has also signed below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Signature if Student is Under Age 18*

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