

January 21, 2022

Instructions for Health Care Providers

RE: Medical Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccination and New Clinical Trial Exemption Process

Effective January 10, 2022, a written medical exemption will no longer be accepted to access businesses and organizations that require proof of vaccination. Exemptions must be entered into the Ontario provincial vaccine database to have a QR code generated. The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit is required to verify medical and clinical trial exemptions to COVID-19 vaccination prior to entering them into the database. A similar process is being followed by all health units at the direction of the Ministry of Health of Ontario.

For health care providers recommending a medical exemption and submitting a medical exemption form:

Individuals who believe they are eligible for a medical exemption must undergo a clinical assessment by an Ontario physician or registered nurse in the extended class (nurse practitioner) to determine if they are at risk from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. If the risk is confirmed, a medical exemption can be recommended that includes which valid exemption is applicable along with other information as set out in the templated exemption form which was distributed to health care professionals on January 5 or 6, 2022. The practitioner must confirm that the patient consents to collection, use and disclosure of their personal health information to the local public health unit, including any subsequent questions or communications between the practitioner and public health unit.

The exemption template or a document that contains the same information as the template, **must be sent from the issuer of the exemption directly to the public health unit where their practice is located** for review and entering into COVaxon. Confidential submissions are to be faxed to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.

Any previously issued medical exemptions, for the purpose of obtaining a vaccine certificate for entry to settings where proof of vaccine is required, must be re-sent directly to the public health

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unit. Patients may contact their physician or nurse practitioner, to request that their exemption be reissued and sent directly to public health unit where the issuer’s practice resides.

If public health determines that a submitted medical exemption request does not meet the eligibility requirements set out by the Province, the request will be denied. Public health will notify the issuer of the exemption request of the denial and the rationale. If the medical practitioner feels the assessment was made in error, they can make a request to Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health by emailing covid.immunization@ontario.ca to request a review of the exemption request.

Contraindications and precautions that may require medical exemptions:

For guidance on evaluating contraindications or precautions to COVID-19 vaccination, please refer to the Ministry of Health’s [Medical Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) (PDF) document for guidance to assist in evaluating contraindications or precautions to COVID-19 vaccination that may warrant a medical exemption.

Please note, contraindications to a viral vector vaccine alone will not qualify for a medical exemption, as the individual would still be able to receive an alternate type of vaccine.

Thank you for your cooperation with this direction. We realize that this may place an extra burden on you, but the number of valid reasons for medical exemptions is very limited, so any extra burden should be small. Health units have difficulty verifying the authenticity of medical exemption requests without this process.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed by Dr. Zimbalatti

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