



# NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Request for Religious Exemption of Mandatory COVID Vaccine Policy

Northern Michigan University reserves the right to implement a mandatory COVID vaccination policy for students and employees during the 2021-22 academic year if safety to public health demands it, one is federally or state mandated, or NMU is ordered to do so by the Marquette County Public Health Department. At the start of the Fall 2021 semester, Northern Michigan University did not have a mandatory COVID vaccination policy, except for some limited situations.

*Students who require clinical, practicum, or student teaching hours outside the university:* Placement with outside agencies is dependent on compliance with their policies and procedures and NMU has no control over these external agency requirements. These agencies have always required multiple vaccinations, such as Hepatitis B, Tetanus, and Measles, and most already require COVID-19 vaccination. Because outside placement hours are often required in accredited programs, it may not be possible for an unvaccinated student to complete degree requirements unless or until COVID-19 vaccination requirements are lifted from outside agencies. Clinical/practicum hours are required in most health and education degrees. If you are unsure if your degree requires clinical or practicum hours, contact your advisor.

**Students and employees must use this form if you are requesting an exemption from Northern's limited COVID vaccination requirements due to a sincerely held religious belief, practice or observance that prevents you from getting the COVID-19 vaccine.** Exemption requests must be submitted to the Office of the President (602 Cohodas Hall, NMUPres@nmu.edu) for review and approval by members of the President's Executive Council. The approval process can take up to 14 days to complete.

While waiting for an exemption decision, and if the University approves the exemption request, you must wear a facial mask when indoors of any NMU facility; must quarantine if exposed to COVID-19 and comply with any other University-required mitigation measures.

## Exemption Request Instructions

**Semester for Exemption (circle one):** Fall 2021   Winter 2022   Fall/Winter, 2021-22   All semesters at NMU

**In addition to the questions below your request may be supported by one or more of the following:**

- Past documentation of medical and vaccination/immunization history that shows you've acted in a manner consistent with your religious belief;
- Written religious materials describing the religious belief, practice, or observance; or
- Written statements or other documents from third parties, such as religious leaders, practitioners, or others who have observed your past adherence to religious practices.

**Describe your religious belief or practice that is the basis for your request for exemption. (Required)**

**Explain the specific tenet of your religious belief or practice that precludes you from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. (Required)**

**Provide the name, address, website and contact name/telephone number for the church, sect, group or organization with which you are affiliated in the event that the University has an objective basis for questioning either the religious nature or the sincerity of your particular belief, observance or practice and needs to seek additional supporting information. (Required)**

## **Certification**

By signing below, I certify that the information contained in this Religious Belief Exemption Request form is true and accurate, and that the request is based on a sincerely held religious belief. I also acknowledge the following known risks and conditions:

- The CDC reports that a COVID-19 vaccination makes it less likely for persons to contract COVID-19, reduces the likelihood of becoming seriously ill if COVID-19 is contacted, and may help prevent the spread of the virus. I understand and acknowledge that certain dangers may be posed by remaining unvaccinated against COVID-19 and assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death, disease, or any other damage of any nature.
- I agree to abide by the specific requirements placed by the State of Michigan and adopted by Northern Michigan University as a condition to on-campus activities, currently including:
  - Unvaccinated persons must continue to wear face masks and socially distance in NMU building spaces, except as allowed in private offices or residences.

- Unvaccinated persons are required to quarantine after exposure and isolate if diagnosed with COVID-19. The time period required for quarantine or isolation, often up to or exceeding 14 days, may result in missed instructional time or other educational and/or NMU employment opportunities.
- Unvaccinated persons may not be allowed to attend classes or report to NMU jobs during the course of a significant disease outbreak.
- Unvaccinated persons must self-assess each day for COVID-19 symptom and exposure before reporting to campus. In addition, unvaccinated persons must complete a weekly questionnaire to confirm symptom and exposure self-assessment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ NMU IN: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature for students younger than 18 years old: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Supporting Documentation**

Photos, video, email, and other supporting documents may be provided as supporting documentation.