

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Students Exemption Requests

Berea College recognizes that there are some situations in which it may *not be possible* for some persons to take advantage of the protection of vaccination for COVID-19. Accordingly, the College will consider requests for medical and religious exemptions to the College's COVID-19 vaccination policy. Requests for exemptions on other grounds will not be considered. Please be advised that unvaccinated students may be excluded from certain educational, co-curricular, or extracurricular activities for reasons of safety.

This statement outlines the process governing exemption requests. It takes effect on August 15, 2021, at the start of the Fall 2021 Term. **Students are required to submit any requests for exemptions and supporting documentation by June 18, 2021, to the Office of Student Life (LSL@berea.edu)**

Medical Exemptions

A medical exemption to vaccination is permitted only in the case where vaccination poses a *definite, definable, physical risk* of significant harm to an individual. Such a request must be accompanied by a physician's statement pertinent to the individual explaining in detail the nature of the harm that will be experienced by the individual, should the individual be vaccinated. The individual seeking exemption must complete the College's medical exemption request form and include clinical evidence supporting the request. The form will be distributed by the Student Life division using SmartSheets. Please email your request for the medical exemption form to LSL@Berea.edu.

The College, acting through the Vice President for Student Life with advice from White House Clinics and other medical consultants, will make decisions regarding medical exemption requests by **July 2, 2021**. Decisions concerning reasonable accommodations pertaining to granted requests will be made by the Vice President for Student Life and the Office of Disability and Accessibility Services by July 16, 2021. Please note that the College may not be able to safely and reasonably accommodate all such requests. All such decisions are final and non-appealable within the College.

Religious Exemptions

A religious exemption to vaccination is available only to individuals who have a sincerely held belief in a religion that has, as one of its established tenets, a prohibition against vaccination for any and all illnesses. The individual seeking exemption must complete the College's religious exemption request form and include specific documentation regarding the religion's tenets prohibiting vaccination. The form will be distributed by the Student Life division using SmartSheets. Please email your request for the religious exemption form to LSL@Berea.edu.

The College, acting through the Vice President for Student Life and the Willis D. Weatherford, Jr. Campus Christian Center, will make decisions regarding religious exemption requests by **July 2, 2021**. Decisions concerning reasonable accommodations pertaining to granted requests will be made by the Vice President for Student Life in consultation with other units of the College by July 16, 2021. Please note that the College may not be able to safely and reasonably accommodate all such requests. All such decisions are final and non-appealable within the College.

For questions about this vaccination exemption policy, please contact Vice President for Student Life Dr. Channell Barbour (barbourc@berea.edu).