



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
EDUCATION

**Child Development Facility Staff
COVID-19 Vaccination Religious Exemption Certificate**

Pursuant to the *Coronavirus Immunization of School Students and Early Childhood Workers Amendment Act of 2021* (D.C. Law 24-0085), all staff working in-person in a child development facility licensed by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), shall have received a full course of a vaccination against coronavirus (COVID-19) unless exempted. This certificate may be used to document requested exemption from this requirement based on sincerely held religious beliefs.

This certificate shall be completed annually by the staff member (“the requestor”) and submitted directly to the child development facility requesting proof of COVID-19 vaccination or exemption. Each child development facility is responsible for ensuring compliance and shall collect and retain documentation of staff COVID-19 vaccination status. During annual, monitoring, and renewal inspections, the assigned OSSE licensing specialist for each facility will review records, including all proof of COVID-19 vaccination and exemption documentation. COVID-19 vaccination records or exemption documentation must be individually uploaded to the provider profile under the specific inspection type in the “Other Staff Records” section in the Division of Early Learning Licensing Tool (DELLT). All staff listed on the staffing plan, required by 5A DCMR 120, must have proof of COVID-19 vaccination or exemption documentation in the DELLT.

Instructions for completing this form:

Section 1: Requestor enter personal information.

Section 2: Requestor initial, complete narrative, sign and date.

Section 3: Child development facility owner/director or designee review, approve or deny, sign and date.

Attachments: The requestor may attach additional written pages and other information to this form to support proof of sincerely held religious beliefs, such a signed letter from a religious/spiritual leader, member or person with personal knowledge from the religious organization attended by the requestor explaining the doctrine/beliefs that prohibit all immunizations and/or the COVID-19 immunization.

Section 1: Personal Information (to be completed by the requestor)

Name of Child Development Facility:

Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Home Street Address:

City:

ZIP Code:

Phone:

Section 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Exemption (to be completed by the requestor)

Initials:

I request to be exempt from the COVID-19 vaccine based on my sincerely held religious beliefs. I understand that if an outbreak of COVID-19 should occur, an exempt individual may be excluded from the child development facility by the administrative head for a period of time as determined by the DC Department of Health based on a case-by-case analysis of public health risk.

Initials:

I understand the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine in decreasing the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death. I understand and assume the risks of refusing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine based on my sincerely held religious beliefs. I know that I may alter my decision at any time and complete the required vaccination.

Initials:	I understand that this religious exemption is only valid for one year from the date of approval. I acknowledge that I am required to submit a new request for religious exemption for any subsequent policy change or on expiration of an approved religious exemption.
Initials:	I affirm that all information provided in this request for religious exemption is true and accurate of my sincerely held religious belief.

Please provide a personal written statement on why you are seeking a religious exemption, the religious principles that guide your objection to immunization, and whether you are opposed to all immunizations, and if not, the religious basis on which you object to the COVID-19 immunization. You may attach additional documentation, if necessary.

Print Full Name:

Signature:

Date:

Section 3: Child Development Facility Response (to be completed by the child development facility)

This religious exemption request shall be reviewed by the child development facility owner/director or a designee. After review, if the owner/director or designee is unable to make a determination because of inadequate information about the nature of the sincerely held religious belief, they may request additional information from the requestor before approval or denial. A denial may be reconsidered only if new and substantive information proving the sincerely held religious belief is provided to the child development facility by the requestor.

Child development facility owner/director or designee shall select from the following. This religious exemption request is (select one):

Approved

Denied

Print Name of Child Development Facility Owner/Director or Designee:

Signature of Child Development Facility Owner/Director or Designee:

Date: