
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
Practicum/Internship On-Site Participation
Vaccine Exemption/Exception Requests

As the legal and policy requirements concerning practicum/internship participation and an individual's vaccination status continue to evolve, varying greatly dependent upon federal and state laws, location, and the particular affiliated agency involved, Baylor University has adopted the following policy.

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2021, for only those students and faculty members (hereafter "individual") who are engaging in practicum/internship experiences, if the individual wishes to attain an exemption/exception (hereafter "exception") to an agency vaccination requirement, **the individual will be required to complete the following steps.**

1. Inquire whether the affiliated agency with whom the individual wishes to interact has an exception policy. *Please be aware, many agencies, including large medical affiliations, are not allowing any type of exception. Please also be aware that in many instances, even if the agency grants/accepts an exception, the individual will still be required to comply with the current masking, social distancing, or other COVID-19 polices of the agency.*
2. If the agency does have an exception policy, determine whether the agency will grant such exceptions internally, or whether the agency wishes to rely on an attestation from Baylor University as to the existence of a documented exception.
 - a. If the agency has an internal method of granting such, **the individual should work to fulfill the requirements of the agency**, communicating with its practicum/internship manager or the Coordinator of Internship Operations or the Academic Support Specialist of Academic Affairs for those on the Nursing School campus, if necessary.
 - b. If the agency instead will only rely on an attestation from Baylor University, the individual should take the actions listed under Step 3 below.
3. Complete documentation of a **MEDICAL** or **RELIGIOUS** Exception Request for either a COVID-19 vaccination or any other vaccination type.
 - a. **COVID-19 Vaccination**
 - i. Medical Exception
 1. The individual should attain, either from Baylor Health Services via the Health Portal under Forms, or from the Coordinator of Internship Operations, or the Academic Support Specialist of Academic Affairs for those on the Nursing School Campus, the **Practicum/Internship Attestation for Affiliate Agency COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Exception Form**. The individual should complete the form and submit it back to Health Services via email to health_services@baylor.edu or by fax to 254-710-2499.
 2. The Form and attached documentation will be vetted by members of Baylor University's Health Services. Communication of acceptance will be made to the Coordinator of Internship Operations, or the Academic Support Specialist of Academic Affairs for those on the Nursing School campus. The acceptance of this documentation indicates that Baylor will attest to an agency to a documented medical exception why the individual has not received the required COVID-19 vaccine. **Submission will have no effect on an**

individual's requirements under Baylor University's current COVID-19 testing policies.

ii. Religious Exception

1. The individual should attain, either from Baylor Health Services via the Health Portal under Forms, or from the Coordinator of Internship Operations, the **Practicum/Internship Attestation for Affiliate Agency COVID-19 Vaccine Religious Exception Form**. The individual should complete the form and submit it back to Health Services via email to health_services@baylor.edu or by fax to 254-710-2499.
2. The acceptance of this Form indicates that Baylor will attest to a documented religious exception as to why the individual has not received the COVID-19 vaccine as required by an agency. **Submission will have no effect on an individual's requirements under Baylor University's current COVID-19 testing policies.**

b. **Vaccinations Other Than COVID-19**

i. Medical Exception

1. The individual should submit documentation signed by a U.S. licensed physician that clearly states a medical reason as to why the person cannot receive specific vaccines to Health Services via email to health_services@baylor.edu or by fax to 254-710-2499.
2. The documentation will be vetted by members of Baylor University's Health Services. Communication of acceptance will be made to the Coordinator of Internship Operations. The acceptance of this documentation indicates that Baylor will attest to an agency to a documented medical exception why the individual has not received the required vaccine. Unless the exemption states a lifelong condition, Baylor University will only attest to an exception for the period of one year from the date of the physician's signature. **Submission will have no effect on an individual's requirements under Baylor University's current COVID-19 testing policies.**

ii. Religious Exception

1. The individual must submit a notarized affidavit through the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to Baylor Health Services, which is valid for a two-year period from the date of notarization. While DSHS states this affidavit for religious exemptions applies to university-required vaccinations, Baylor will accept the form for non-university required vaccinations (other than COVID-19) for internship attestation.
2. Communication of acceptance will be made to the Coordinator of Internship Operations. The acceptance of this documentation indicates that Baylor will attest to an agency to a documented religious exception why the individual has not received the required vaccine. **Submission will have no effect on an individual's requirements under Baylor University's current COVID-19 testing policies.**