



COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

1. Does NWTC require the COVID-19 vaccination to enroll in classes?

No, NWTC does not require the COVID-19 vaccine to take classes on campus.

2. If NWTC doesn't require the COVID-19 vaccine, why am I receiving information that I need to be vaccinated?

As part of a Health Science and Education, Trades and Engineering Technologies or Public Safety program that requires clinical affiliation experiences, the COVID-19 vaccine is a required component of a series of vaccinations and background checks required by our clinical partners. The COVID-19 vaccination is a Federal requirement placed upon hospitals, long-term care agencies, and clinics by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. As such, all employees, students, faculty, and other vendors need to comply with the COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

3. Can I receive an exemption from receiving the COVID-19 vaccination?

It depends. Policies for requesting exemptions with our clinical partners vary greatly. Some clinical partners are refusing to process medical and religious exemptions for students. Some clinical partners have allowed for NWTC to process medical and religious exemptions for students. Finally, some clinical partners are processing student requests for medical and religious exemptions within their own organizations.

4. What are some medical reasons for COVID-19 vaccination exemption?

Through extensive communication with our clinical partners, the only possible medical exemption approval will be for a documented allergy to a component of all three available vaccines and/or documented severe reactions after a first dose attempt from one of the three available vaccines (anaphylactic reaction). The documentation provided will require what vaccine was attempted and what the reaction was. The documentation will also require the specific allergy to the specific component of all the available vaccines.

All medical documentation will need to be signed and dated by a medical professional, with the healthcare organization, qualifications, and specialty of the medical professional clearly evident, i.e., MD, DO, PA, NP, Infectious Disease Specialist, Internist, etc.

The following reasons will not be approved by our clinical partners:

- Egg allergy - eggs are not used in manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Vegan diet - animal products are not used in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines.
- Immunocompromised - COVID-19 vaccines are not made from live viruses. Vaccination in immunocompromised persons is strongly encouraged.
- Perceived negative impact on fertility (COVID-19 vaccine is endorsed by American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists & Society of Maternal and Fetal Medicine).
- Mild or nonspecific, non-allergic symptoms following previous COVID-19 vaccination (e.g., fever, arm soreness, diarrhea).
- Panic attack, anxiety, or vasovagal reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Recent vaccine administration - vaccines can be received concurrently based on CDC recommendations.
- Food and/or environmental allergies.
- History of Guillain-Barre syndrome: this has been associated only with Johnson & Johnson vaccine - Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are available.

5. Can I submit a religious exemption request?

Similar to medical exemption requests, our clinical sites have provided us extensive feedback for reasons that religious requests will not be approved. These include:

- Misinformation - such as microchip, magnets, DNA-altering technology, adverse impact on fertility.
- Legal arguments - requests including constitutional, regulatory, or privacy justification for vaccine exemptions.
- Animal cells, tissues, or derivative materials - animal products are not used in the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Social, philosophical, political, or economic beliefs.
- Non-secular/religious statements (e.g., quoting or citing to scripture or sacred texts) without a clear connection between the sincerely held religious belief or principle and vaccination. Religious texts are open to interpretation and the religious exemption must provide that interpretation.

6. Can you just place me at a clinical site that will accept my exemption?

No. We do not give preferential treatment for clinical placement based upon COVID-19 vaccination status or exemption status.

Clinical requirements vary greatly by program, with many programs using multiple clinical sites to meet the program clinical outcomes. Because of this, it is likely you will be placed at more than one clinical site throughout your program. In this case, even if one site accepts your exemption request, it's very likely your next clinical site will have a different process and may not accept your exemption request. Students who are placed exclusively at one site are also required to resubmit their exemption request to their clinical site each clinical rotation. It is possible for a site to deny a request that has previously been approved. It is also possible for clinical site vaccination requirements to change during your rotation. If this occurs, compliance to the updated requirements must be met.

Trying to complete the clinical requirements of your program while submitting multiple exemption requests is at your own risk. Your progression in clinical rotations is likely to be impacted at some point. No refunds for previous coursework will be offered.

7. What happens if my exemption request is denied, and I still refuse to receive the COVID-19 vaccination?

If your exemption request is denied and you still refuse to be vaccinated, you will be able to enroll in classes that are delivered on-campus. However, once your clinical rotations begin, your progression in your program will be stopped with no further opportunity to complete the program. No refunds for previous coursework will be offered.

8. Will the process remain the same throughout my program?

Probably not. The COVID-19 vaccination requirements and processes of our clinical partners has changed many times in the last 6 months. It is very likely to change again, even while enrolled in your program. Attempting to complete your program while unvaccinated is at your own risk. No refunds for previous coursework will be offered, even as processes change.

***Updated 4/25/22**