

Indoor Dining Location Customer COVID-19 Vaccination Religious Exemption Request

Instructions:

Philadelphia's Regulations requiring COVID-19 vaccination for indoor dining locations does not apply to unvaccinated customers with a sincerely held religious belief against vaccination which prevents them from receiving the COVID-19 vaccination ("religious exemption").¹ If multiple members of your party are seeking religious exemptions, each person provide their own attestation.

A business may choose NOT to accept your request to dine indoors. Businesses are permitted to impose requirements for vaccination that are stricter than what is required under City law. If your request is not granted, you may request your order to go or be delivered, and you must exit the indoor dining location.

What Must Be Included in My Request?

1. To dine at a location where food or drink is provided or sold for eating or drinking onsite, your request for a religious exemption must include a physical copy of your signed attestation, which must also contain the following:
 - a. A statement that your sincerely held religious belief is not based on philosophical, moral, or other non-religious objection which prevents you from receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.
 - b. The SAMPLE FORM included on the following page may be used, an alternate format may be presented and taken as valid certifications of religious exemption IF all information on the SAMPLE FORM is also captured in any alternate format.
2. The indoor dining location is allowed to request additional information from you regarding your request.

What Is the Process of Requesting to Dine Indoors with a Religious Exemption?

1. Provide a physical copy of your signed attestation to the indoor dining location.
2. If you are over 18, provide proof of your identity including a clear photograph which matches the name of the individual listed on the physical copy of the exemption.
3. For any indoor dining location which seats more than 1000 people any unvaccinated person aged 5 years and three months or older must submit (in addition to exemption documentation) proof of a negative COVID test (PCR or antigen) taken 24 hours prior to the entrance to the indoor dining location.²

What Are Requirements While Dining with a Religious Exemption?

1. Customers with an approved exemption must still comply with the Indoor Mask Mandate which requires masking when not eating or drinking while seated.
2. Businesses may also implement additional COVID-19 protocols or procedures to protect the safety of staff and other customers.

¹ Philosophical, moral, or other non-religious objections to receiving the vaccine do not meet the standard required for a sincerely held religious belief. Indoor dining locations may request supporting documentation, including any prior objections to other vaccinations on the basis of the worker's sincerely held religious belief, or documentation from the worker's religious or faith community leaders.

² Over-the-counter home tests are not acceptable as proof of negative result.

SAMPLE FORM – RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO COVID-19 VACCINATION

I, (insert YOUR name) attest that I possess a sincerely held religious belief against vaccination against and to the below listed COVID-19 vaccines.

- o Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine
- o Moderna COVID -19 Vaccine
- o Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine
- o Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 Vaccine

My sincerely held religious belief is based on my (insert religious or faith community’s statements against COVID-19 vaccination). I attest that I am a member of (insert religious or faith community) at (religious or faith community’s mailing address, if applicable) and that I do not make this objection on moral, philosophical, or other non-religious grounds.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I, (insert YOUR name) attest that this sincerely held religious belief requires a religious exemption to the City of Philadelphia’s December 15, 2021 Emergency Regulation Governing the Control and Prevention of COVID-19 (“Mandating Vaccines for Individuals Working and Dining at Indoor Dining Locations”).

According to Section 1-108 of the Philadelphia Code, **I also certify that the statements contained herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if I knowingly make any false statement herein, I am subject to such penalties as may be prescribed by statute or ordinance.**

Signed: _____

Date: _____