

Personal Letterhead

Name of Administrator

Title

Institution

Address

Re: Request for Religious Exemption to COVID-19 Vaccine

Dear _____:

I am writing to formally request a religious exemption to receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. As a devout Christian, I am guided in everything I do by my faith in God and the Bible, which I believe to be God's revealed and inspired Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17). In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, the Apostle Paul exhorts Christians about the importance of their bodies: "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body." Likewise, Romans 12:1 exhorts Christians: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

These Scriptures are just a few of many that have informed my religious convictions regarding my physical and spiritual health that I live by, including my sincere religious objection to receiving any of the COVID vaccines. I must honor God with my spirit, mind, and body, and therefore I must guard what I put into my body. That includes avoiding, whenever possible, knowingly receiving foreign toxins with harmful or unknown effects, while also maximizing nutrition and cultivating a healthy natural immune system in accordance with God's design. I firmly believe that the experimental COVID vaccine ingredients are contaminants that are harmful to my body, and that in addition to the known health risks, there are many unknown risks due to the lack of standard testing and long-term study of these substances.

The COVID-19 vaccines are unique in that they do not contain the typical viral ingredients, but rather they have never-before-used, to this extent, components and designs such as synthetic mRNA and lipid nanoparticles. Very little is scientifically known about these substances in humans including their short term or long term effects on the body. In taking this vaccine, I would be taking part in an experiment. Not only is this unsafe, but most importantly to me, it would be dishonoring to God with my body (i.e. would not be "glorifying God in my body," as Christians are called to do, nor taking care of the body God gave me, which "is the temple of the Holy Spirit of God"). Especially when there are other known, safe, and effective alternatives both to treat and prevent COVID-19, including well known substances and holistic methods to nurture and boost our God-given immunity, I cannot justify being injected with the COVID-19 vaccines and still be consistent with my sincere Christian faith.

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It is also my sincere religious conviction that human life begins at conception, that the sanctity of life is precious to God, and that it is morally wrong to destroy innocent human life. (See, e.g. Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 127:3, Exodus 20:13) The experimental COVID-19 injections manufactured by Moderna¹ and Pfizer² both used aborted fetal tissue in the testing process, and those manufactured by AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson used aborted fetal tissue in every step of the process – development, production and lab testing. It violates my Christian faith to be injected with substances that were the product of such an unethical and morally repugnant process that included the destruction and use of innocent human life.

The issues of honoring God with my body and preserving the sanctity of human life are further compounded in that I am a woman of child-bearing age who will likely become pregnant in the future. Because of my Christian convictions in the capacity of a future wife and mother, and especially in light of my convictions about the sanctity of human life, I cannot receive a COVID injection because of the potential harm that could result to myself and my future children.

It is my understanding that experimental drugs, such as all of the current COVID-19 vaccinations, require a heightened degree of informed consent and cannot be required of anyone. None of the COVID vaccinations have been fully approved by the FDA. It should also be relevant that, because of my age and good health, if I were to test positive for COVID-19, statistically I have a better than 99.9% likelihood of full recovery, thereby significantly mitigating any potential risks of not being vaccinated. Given that it seems most, if not all, other students around me, and a majority of adults in Virginia³ have received one of the COVID vaccines, in theory I should not pose a risk to them, assuming I was to contract the virus.

In conclusion, while the foregoing are not the only bases for my sincere religious objections to receiving a COVID vaccination, I hope they have conveyed the sincerity and conscientiousness with which I have approached and diligently considered this matter. Thank you in advance for receiving this letter as a most sincere expression of my religious objections to receiving a COVID vaccination. I am humbled and honored to be able to attend __[Name of school]___ and look forward to this request being granted. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2622-0>

² <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.08.280818v1.full>

³ <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/may/headline-895348-en.html>