



General Questions

1. **Does the request for an exemption process apply to all students across programs?**
 - a. Yes the exemption process is available to all learners.

2. **How does the student apply for the exemption?**
 - a. The student needs to complete the most applicable exemption form (Religious or Medical), and electronically submit the form and appropriate supporting documentation (if applicable) to the hyperlink provided in step two of the process.
 - b. Students are encouraged to follow their educational institutional processes in applying for an exemption.
 - i. Students may elect to include a specific email address as a courtesy copy from their educational institution, as needed to illustrate the application process has been initiated.
 - c. The application is sent to the review committee and a decision is then rendered. The rendered decision will be disseminated back to the student and the Student Programs department.
 - d. The Student Programs department will notify the learner if the student is able to participate in a clinical experience.
 - i. *Please note: the student is responsible for disseminating the response back to their educational institution.*

3. **The exemption review process can take **2 – 4 weeks** for a determination to be made. It is **strongly encouraged** students apply for their exemption with this time frame in mind; *prior* to their requested clinical rotational start date.**

4. **If the student is also an MCHS employee do they need to complete this process twice, (once as an employee and once as a student)?**
 - a. No, if the student is also an MCHS employee and has previously filed an exemption, received a rendered decision, the employee/student will need to share this content with the Student Programs department to determine if approved accommodations meet the safety expectations for patient seeing areas.
 - i. Additionally, if the employee is an instructor they are to send their determination to Student Programs.
 - ii. Please note: MCHS maintains employee and student records separately.

Medical Exemption

1. **Will a Health Care Provider form also be required for COVID-19 vaccine medical exemption?**
 - a. Supporting medical documentation from an Attending Physician or Health Care Provider can be provided on letter head and accompany the exemption request form.
2. **If a student has had COVID, and cannot receive the vaccination for 90 days – should they file a medical exemption?**
 - a. Yes, it is requested that the student complete the medical exemption form, and clearly state their anticipated timeframe of when to receive the vaccination.
 - i. An updated WIR report can be sent to their Education Programs Coordinator.

Vaccination Clarity

1. **MCHS continues to be a proactive resource in providing the COVID vaccination to non-employees and patients. *If a student is seeking vaccination information, feel free to share the following:***
 - a. Please visit: <https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/specialties/infectious-diseases/covid-19-vaccine> for more information or call 877-998-0880 for an appointment.
2. **If MCHS denies the student's declination, what is the date those student(s) would be prohibited from further onsite participation in clinical experiences?**
 - a. Effective **November 15, 2021** all learners must be fully vaccinated or have a rendered an exemption status. If a student is still actively awaiting a rendered decision, their rotation is suspended pending the outcome of their exemption status.
 - i. Students are encouraged to complete their paperwork for an exemption **4 weeks in advance** (minimum) of their clinical rotation to help to determine status by the time they are to start their rotation.
 - ii. Students may be required to reapply for a COVID exemption each year.
 - b. *Students and Educational Institutions need to take into account the suspension of a clinical rotation may impact the necessary number of clinical hours required to matriculate from their program. Alternative placements or sim lab options may need to be considered if rendered decisions are pending.*
3. All non-vaccinated students that receive an approved MCHS exemption will be required to wear an N95 respirator/mask at all times. (**Please note: while supplies are available**).
 - a. **Students will be required to be properly fit for an N95 respirator/mask; and must wear the respirator/mask at all times while on MCHS property;** the only exception to this requirement will be to consume food or drink in a closed room or office; independently or without contact of others. A new N95 respirator/mask is necessary if soiled or hard to breathe through.
 - b. Failure to be in compliance or properly N95 fit tested will require serial PCR testing.

PCR Testing Requirements

1. Educational institutions interested in establishing an account for PCR COVID testing, please contact the MCHS Occupational Health Department for billing purposes.
 - a. Please contact 715-389-4799.

2. If your educational institution does not establish an account for PCR COVID testing through MCHS's Occupational Health Department, students will be responsible for their own COVID test costs. Options include: MCHS's Occupational Health department, or a qualified retail pharmacy collection site (e.g. Walgreens) to set up an account.

Please note:

- PCR COVID tests must be from a qualified lab with a licensed collection site.
- MCHS will only accept PCR nasal swab test results (no spit tests).
 - 1) You may be required to maintain weekly COVID testing, for the entire duration of your clinical experience.
 - 2) The PCR COVID testing facility must be identified as the testing facility in the testing results. **Absolutely NO over the counter sample test results will be accepted.**
 - a) PCR test means: polymerase chain reaction test - Specimen collection can be in the form of a nasal swap (nostrils only) or Nasopharyngeal (high in the nasal cavity), saliva collection or throat swabs.]
 - i. Most collection centers are performing nasal swabs or nasopharyngeal swabs
 - ii. Collection sites may vary with turnaround time of test results. It is up to the student to be sure that hardcopy test result are emailed and received to the Student Programs department within the 7 day or one week reporting requirement.
 - iii. Weekly test results must be uploaded to the following link: [COVID Weekly Exemption](#)
 - a) Test results must include: the student's name, organization performing the test, date and result of tests.
- a. **Failure to provide timely and weekly test results, will suspend or terminate the clinical experience.**
- b. Students are encouraged to follow their educational institutional policies regarding a positive COVID test, and following proper quarantine guidelines. Students with positive test results, must be medically cleared before resuming their clinical rotation. This documentation needs to be submitted to the Student Programs department.

3. What are the ramifications should a student fail to follow the process?

- a. Immediate termination of a clinical rotation with MCHS.