

COVID-19 Vaccination & Exemption Process

A full series of a COVID-19 vaccine according to NACI guidelines is a mandatory requirement and forms part of the FHS Health Screening Requirements.

Learners who are seeking an exemption from this requirement must review the [FHS COVID Vaccination Policy](#). Then:

- Complete the [FHS Health Professional Student COVID-19 Vaccine Exemption Request: Medical Exemption](#) form if seeking a medical exemption and submit to hrsadmin@mcmaster.ca or upload [here](#), OR
- Complete the [COVID-19 Vaccine Exemption Request: Non-Medical Human Rights Grounds](#) form and submit to vacc@mcmaster.ca if seeking a non-medical exemption.

Medical exemptions will be granted based on [Ontario Ministry of Health Medical Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) guidelines. Learners are advised to review these guidelines with their health care provider prior to submitting a medical exemption request.

Learners seeking an exemption from vaccination must begin the process well in advance of the submission deadline so as to allow ample time for review of the request which may take several weeks and may result in a request for additional information or specialist consultation. Approved exemptions must be in place and submitted with the learner's Health Screening Record by:

- July 15th of your incoming year for all Graduate/Undergraduate Health Professional learners and other program identified FHS learners participating in clinical environment courses (except Postgraduate Medicine).
- June 1st of your incoming year for all Postgraduate Medicine incoming learners OR, if a visiting Postgraduate Medicine elective learner, Fellow or Resident, at least 8 weeks prior to McMaster start date.

Learners who are returning from a leave of absence and not cleared for COVID vaccination prior to their leave, must submit original documentation of a full series of a COVID-19 vaccine or an approved exemption prior to returning to their program.

Learners with an exemption vaccination status must be aware that Placement Site policies may preclude them from securing a clinical placement in a timely manner and completion of program degree requirements may be interrupted, delayed, or not possible.

Note: Learners without a full COVID-19 vaccination series or approved exemption will cause a "Not Cleared" overall Health Screening status. This will result in the learner being unable to participate in clinical or workplace-based learning placements, including simulation-based learning activities.