

# COVID-19 Vaccine Exemption Policy

**If you are considering booking in for a vaccine exemption please read this through its entirety before you book in.** To be considered for a vaccination exemption your family physician will take a history, may request you come in for a physical exam, request supporting documentation, and or refer you for further testing or specialty consultation. At a later date, after everything has been reviewed, a decision will be made. A vaccine exemption is not guaranteed after the review process. **In the very rare case a vaccine exemption is provided, it may only be done so for a limited period of time, and the need for it will be reassessed regularly.**

Your physician is following recommendations provided by Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group and the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta. The advisory group reviewed the latest literature from the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## **Important points to consider before you pursue a vaccine exemption:**

1. As per the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta: **“It is clear the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for nearly every individual aged 12 or older. There are no medical conditions that would universally warrant a complete exemption from the initial COVID-19 vaccine.”**
2. Severe allergic reaction (Anaphylactic)
  - a. In the case of a severe allergic reaction to a previous COVID-19 vaccine or a component of a COVID-19 vaccine, a referral to an allergist may be considered. Even then a vaccine exemption may not be guaranteed, rather another vaccine may be used.
  - b. It is important to note that if you have not had a COVID-19 vaccine but you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines in the past. One of the COVID-19 vaccines may still be safe. The Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) identifies the risk for a serious allergic reaction as low.
3. Myocarditis/Pericarditis
  - a. Someone that developed a very rare reaction such as myocarditis or pericarditis to their first COVID-19 vaccine may be considered for a time limited exemption. However, your physician may request supporting documentation and a referral will be made to a specialist to see if an alternative vaccine could be considered or they can wait to receive their second dose.
4. Pregnancy is not a reason for exemption, in fact the vaccine prevents adverse outcomes during pregnancy. The mRNA (Pfizer/Moderna) vaccine is recommended anytime during the pregnancy.
5. Only medical reason will be considered, your family physician will not provide exemptions based on religious or philosophical grounds

If after reading this you would like to pursue a vaccine exemption please book in **by phone appointment** to review it with your family physician.

**As always Airdrie Medical Clinic maintains a zero tolerance policy towards abuse.**

Thanks,  
Airdrie Medical Clinic