



HORACE MANN SCHOOL BRONX, NEW YORK

Student Request for Religious Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccine Form

Horace Mann School (HM) policy requires that all students receive a complete COVID-19 vaccination. A religious exemption may be granted if (i) the individual sincerely holds religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of vaccination, (ii) the individual completes and timely submits this form, and (iii) the requested accommodation is reasonable and does not create an undue hardship for HM or pose a direct threat to the health and/or safety of others in the school and/or to the requesting individual. HM is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive experience for all and recognizes sincere observance of faith as it pertains to the practice of vaccination. Social, political, and economic philosophies, or personal preferences, are not considered “religious beliefs” and are not entitled to accommodations under applicable law.

Religious exemptions must be requested annually. If approved, the exemption will remain in effect for the duration of the current academic year. Students with an approved exemption may be required to comply with COVID-19 testing and other preventive requirements, such as wearing a mask.

To request a religious exemption or accommodation for your child related to HM’s COVID-19 vaccination policy, please complete this form and return it to the Head of School. This information will be used to engage in an interactive process to determine eligibility and to identify possible accommodations for your child. If you refuse to provide such information, your refusal may impact the School’s ability to adequately understand your request or effectively engage in the interactive process to identify possible accommodations for your child.

While HM will carefully review all requests for religious exemptions, approval is not guaranteed. HM’s Exemption Review Committee will review each request and determine if the request should be granted. After your request has been reviewed and processed, you will be notified, in writing, if an exemption has been granted or denied for your child. Decisions are final and not subject to appeal. Students whose requests have been denied are permitted to reapply if new documentation and information should become available.

Religious Exemption Process:

- Read the [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#).
- Complete and sign this form.
- Submit the completed documents electronically no later than July 31, 2021 to: tom_kelly@horacemann.org

Incomplete and late submissions will not be reviewed.

Student Religious Exemption Request Verification

By signing below, you understand and agree with the following:

- I request exemption, on behalf of my child, from HM's COVID-19 vaccination requirements due to current religious beliefs. I understand and assume the risks of my child's non-vaccination. I accept full responsibility for my child's health.
- If my child's exemption request is granted and my child remains unvaccinated, I will ensure that my child complies with assigned COVID-19 testing requirements and other preventative guidance.
- Should my child contract COVID-19, I will immediately report it to the Head of School and ensure that my child complies with all isolation and quarantine procedures specified by HM.
- I acknowledge that I have read the [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#) as it applies to my child.
- I understand and agree that my child will comply with and abide by all COVID-19 policies and procedures as implemented by HM.
- I understand that I may need to submit a new request, on behalf of my child, if there are any new religious contraindications or on expiration of an approved exemption. I further understand that the approval is provisional based on the current vaccination policy and is subject to change based on HM's requirements moving forward.
- I verify that the information I am submitting in support of my child's request for an accommodation is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that any intentional misrepresentation contained in this request may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Name of Student: _____

Printed Name of Guardian: _____

Signature of Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Once you have completed this document, it must be sent to the Head of School at Horace Mann School, Dr. Thomas M. Kelly, at: tom_kelly@horacemann.org no later than July 31, 2021.