

Good Morning,

On behalf of the Designated Education Officer (DEO),

The Office of Academic Affiliation (OAA) has recently given further guidance on the COVID-19 Vaccine "Exemption" process. All HPTs training in a VA facility must be fully vaccinated or have an exemption filed (medical or religious) with the DEO. **All** HPTs onboard on or before 8/12/2021 must be vaccinated, or have an exemption letter on file by 10/7/2021. All HPTs must be vaccinated, or have filed an exemption with the DEO, within 8 weeks of their start date. The Chief of Staff and Medical Center Director will determine if those who submit an exemption letter will be allowed to training within the VA facility or a Clinic Based Outpatient Care location. Exemption Letters are to be submitted with the Training Qualification & Credential Letter (TQCVL) for further training allocations.

-Medical Exemption: Trainee's personal physician will complete the first two lines. The third line "Supervisor Signature" will be completed by the affiliate program director or coordinator.

-Religious Exemption: "Supervisor Signature" will be completed by the affiliate program director or coordinator.

-The attestation box is to be completed by the HPT. Dept/Serv: indicates the clinic area in which the trainee will be assigned (i.e. pharmacy, primary care, community living center, psychology, etc.)

***At this time no exemptions will be approved for those assigned to work in the Community Living Center and/or Palliative Care Unit.**

See web site below for guidance and VA Form 10-263 Request COVID Exemption dated Aug 2021:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAOAA/public/SitePages/COVID-Update-HPTs.aspx>

V/r,

Kris A. Waterman

Program Specialist

GME & Health Trainee Coordinator

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center

1500 Weiss Street

Saginaw, MI 48602

(989) 497-2500 ext. 11900

Fax (989) 321-4902