

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

To Whom It May Concern,

I am seeking an exemption from \_\_\_\_\_'s requirements related to the COVID-19 virus. I have sincerely held religious beliefs that make it impossible for my child to comply with your COVID-19 policies related to vaccines and mask wearing.

Louisiana law offers robust and broad protections for students' and parents' religious and philosophical objections to certain state public health policies, and I write to assert my philosophical and religious objections to the COVID vaccine, which are explicitly protected by state law. La. Rev. Stat. §17:170 (E). The Louisiana State Constitution, La. Const. art. I, § 8, the Louisiana Religious Freedom Restoration Act., La. Rev. Stat. §13:5231, et seq., also protect the exercise of my religion.

I believe that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and that I am called to honor God in how I care for my body. *See* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. I believe that each person is created in the image of God. *See* Genesis 1:26. I also believe that people are relational beings and that these relationships mirror the relationship between God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. *See* Genesis 2:18, Philippians 2:1-4, 1 Corinthians 8:6. I believe that Christians are called to communicate God's words and message of love to the world. *See* Luke 9:2.

I have religious objections to the COVID vaccine, first, because I object on religious grounds to forcing my child to participate in any medical experiment, and second, because I have religious objections to injecting my child with a product that uses fetal stem cell lines in its development or testing. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not licensed any of the COVID vaccines—all vaccines are currently available only under emergency use authorization, they are still experimental. *See* 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(e)(1)(A)(ii)(III). Also, each COVID vaccine uses fetal stem cell lines in either their development or testing. The vaccines (BNT162b2 by Pfizer-BioNTech, mRNA-1273 by Moderna, and Ad26.COV2.S by Janssen) were all manufactured or tested using cell lines derived from an abortion in 1972 (HEK-293) and an abortion in 1985 (PER.C6). *See* David Prentice, Ph.D., COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates and Abortion-Derived Cell Lines, Charlotte Lozier Institute, June 2, 2021, <https://lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/>. The use of fetal stem cell lines in the development or testing of these vaccines violates my deeply held beliefs about, first, honoring God by what I inject into my body, and second, advocating for the protection of sacred life.

I also write to state my religious objections to a mask mandate in our school. I do not consent to forcing a face covering on my child, who is created in the image of God. Masks lead to anti-social behaviors, interfere with religious commands to share God's love with others, and interfere with relationships in contravention with the Bible.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name