

From: **Vaccination and Testing Centre** <vaxinfo@uwo.ca>

Date: Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 3:04 PM

Subject: RE: Religious Exemption Request

To: Josh Jacob [REDACTED]

Hello Josh,

Western is in receipt of your request for an exemption from the requirement to be vaccinated, which has been reviewed carefully. The University is mindful and protective of the rights of individuals in the University community to seek exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement on the basis of religious beliefs or creed. We recognize the University's obligation to accommodate persons who, for reasons of religion or creed, do not consider themselves able to be vaccinated.

That exemption depends, however, upon establishing a clear connection between the objection to vaccination and the individual's religious beliefs or practices or an overarching system of belief which can be said to amount to a creed governing the individual's conduct and practices. While you have requested accommodation based upon your religious beliefs, the documentation submitted does not establish the existence of grounds for an exemption from the requirement to be vaccinated based on creed or religion, and specifically it does not establish that you are precluded from being vaccinated as the result of your sincerely held religious beliefs.

In addition, the University is aware that the plant-based Novavax vaccine, which we understand did not use fetal cell lines, including HEK293, in its development, has now been approved by Health Canada and is readily available. If you are precluded from receiving this vaccine as the result of your sincerely held religious beliefs, please advise what research you have undertaken with respect to this vaccine and why you have determined that receiving the Novavax vaccine is contrary to your religious beliefs. The University will consider that further information carefully.

Until such time as the University can review any additional supporting information or documentation you may wish to submit, the requirement that you be vaccinated in order to attend on campus is maintained in order to safeguard the health and safety of Western campus community members and visitors.

Thank you,

Vaccination and Testing Centre

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