



School of Medicine  
Division of Biomedical Sciences  
Riverside, CA, 92521

## School of Medicine

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**To:** Jason Stajich, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

**From:** Declan McCole, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

**Subject:** SOM FEC Response to the Draft SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program

Dear Jason,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee is in broad agreement with the draft policy on the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program. However, we would like clarification as to why a religious exemption is available for declination of inoculation with an approved COVID-19 vaccine. This conflicts with – and represents a singular exception from - established UC policy on vaccinations which expressly states that while medical exemptions are permitted (following appropriate review of a submitted medical exemption request form), *“requests for exemptions for non-medical reasons will be denied and are not eligible for appeal”*. This is a direct quote from the University of California Immunization Exemption Policy document (<https://www.ucop.edu/uc-health/files/UC%20Immunization%20Exemption%20Policy.pdf>).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Declan F. McCole". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Declan F. McCole, Ph.D.  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee  
School of Medicine