

FOR PATIENTS REQUESTING MEDICAL EXEMPTION FROM COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

The New York State Department of Health requires that a licensed physician or certified nurse practitioner certify that immunization with the COVID-19 vaccine would be detrimental to the health of the person listed above, based upon a pre-existing health condition, and must be in accordance with generally accepted medical standards. When answering the following questions please keep in mind **the CDC currently allows only two medical reasons for consideration of COVID-19 vaccination exemption:**

- 1. Severe allergic reaction** (e.g., anaphylaxis, toxic epidermal necrolysis, angioedema, respiratory distress) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2. Immediate allergic reaction** of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy **to a component of the vaccine**

*If a significant COVID vaccine allergy is diagnosed, providers should consider obtain an allergy and immunology consultation concluding that the allergy constitutes a medical exemption.

Please note: Pregnancy and lactation do not automatically qualify an individual for a medical exemption from COVID-19 vaccination. **The CDC, the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM)** all recommend that all pregnant and lactating individuals be vaccinated against COVID-19. Providers should be aware that the NYS DOH has specifically indicated that pregnancy alone is not a valid health condition upon which to base a medical exemption.

Ethics are not optional in medicine: they are an essential and integral part of health care. All our *Licensed Healthcare Professionals* uphold the highest standard of ethical conduct.