


STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 13, 2021

TO: Assistant Superintendents  
Complex Area Superintendents  
Principals  
Athletic Directors

FROM: Keith T. Hayashi   
Interim Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Student-Athlete Vaccination Policy Religious Accommodations**

On August 4, 2021, the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) issued a memorandum outlining “new safety guidelines with vaccination requirements for athletes, adults to participate in sports” (Memorandum). In relevant part, the Memorandum states that all student-athletes, athletic staff, and volunteers will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by September 24, 2021, to participate in school-sanctioned athletic activities for the 2021-2022 school year. Full vaccination is defined as two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine.

The Department’s Civil Rights Compliance Branch (CRCB) will be responsible for fielding requests for Religious Accommodations regarding the new vaccination requirement from student-athletes, athletic staff, and athletic volunteers.

Please find attached a form entitled, *Request for Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement (for Student Participation in Athletics) on Religious Grounds*, specifically for student-athletes seeking religious accommodations related to the vaccination requirement under the Memorandum.

Assistant Superintendents, et al.  
September 13, 2021  
Page 2

Students may submit a completed request form to the applicable CRCB Equity Specialist for their Complex Area.<sup>1</sup>

The CRCB Equity Specialist will review the request, and shall contact the student's parent to ask follow-up questions regarding the student's religious beliefs/practices/observances.

The CRCB Equity Specialist will issue a written determination to the student's parent.

Should you have any questions, please contact Title VII Specialist Toby Yamashiro via phone at (808) 586-3322 or email at [toby.yamashiro@k12.hi.us](mailto:toby.yamashiro@k12.hi.us).

KTH:bs  
Attachment

c: Phyllis Unebasami, Deputy Superintendent

---

<sup>1</sup> A list of CRCB Equity Specialists can be found here:  
<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/Offices/Pages/CRCO.aspx>