

MILPERSMAN 6320-010

IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTIONS

Responsible Office	BUMED (M3B25)	Phone:	DSN	762-3500
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References	(a) SECNAVINST 1730.8B (b) BUMEDINST 6230.15A (c) SECNAVINST 1920.6C
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1. **Policy**. Exemptions of immunization requirements are granted for administrative reasons and will ordinarily be granted only in the case of legitimate religious objection to immunization, as addressed in references (a) and (b).

2. **Authority**. Authority to grant permanent waiver of immunization requirements is vested in the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), Washington, DC.

3. **Application Procedure**. Members requesting a permanent exemption of immunization requirements will forward a request to BUMED, Public Health/Preventive Medicine (M3B25) via the member's commanding officer (CO) and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower Training and Education (N1), or Commandant of the Marine Corps, Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS) for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA), as appropriate.

4. **Contents of Request**. The request will include the following:

- a. Full name and grade;
- b. Description of the religious tenet or belief contrary to immunization;

c. Recommendation from a military chaplain who has counseled the applicant regarding the depth and sincerity of religious belief; and

d. The following acknowledgements. Enlisted members will use NAVPERS 1070/613 Administrative Remarks in the following format:

"I request a permanent waiver of immunization requirements. I hereby state that my request is based upon (religious objection to immunization, or other reasons specifically described). I acknowledge having received the following counseling:

1. Failure to obtain immunization poses additional risk to my health upon exposure to disease.
2. If I contract a disease for which an immunization is available and prescribed, any hospitalization resulting there from could constitute time lost from Active Duty which must be made up.
3. Any disability resulting from the aforementioned disease could deny me entitlement to any disability benefits that otherwise might accrue as a result of naval service.
4. In the event of foreign travel, I may be detained during travel across foreign borders due to international health regulations.
5. If granted, a waiver may be revoked by my commanding officer, if I am subsequently considered by competent authority to have imminent risk of disease.

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

Witnessed:

5. **Applicant Counseling.** COs will ensure that applicants are counseled concerning the following:

a. The additional risk to health on exposure to disease against which the applicant will not be protected by a military physician who informs member of diseases concerned, and benefits and risks of vaccine;

b. The possibility that the applicant may be detained during travel across international borders due to international health regulations; and

c. The possibility that individuals granted such exemptions may have their waiver revoked if they are at imminent risk of disease (i.e., exposure to anthrax, measles, cholera, etc.) and or due to international health regulations.

6. **Revocation of Waiver by CO.** COs may, without prior approval by BUMED, revoke a member's authorized immunization waiver in the event of imminent risk of disease due to exposure or as a result of international health regulations incident to foreign travel. If a member's immunization waiver is revoked, such action is to be reported to BUMED (M3B25) by message as soon as possible.

7. **Administrative Actions**

a. Service members who have not requested a waiver or whose waiver has been disapproved, and who refuse to take immunizations may be subject to administrative and disciplinary actions as deemed appropriate by COs, for violation of a lawful order.

b. Actions include:

(1) Formal counseling and warning, recorded on NAVPERS 1070/613 Administrative Remarks;

(2) Nonjudicial Punishment;

(3) Courts-martial; and or

(4) Processing for administrative separation by reason of misconduct due to commission of a serious offense.

c. See MILPERSMAN 1910-142 and 1910-402 for guidance on enlisted separation. See reference (c) for officer separations.