

Good Morning,

Please see Bishop Coyne's response below:

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington cannot issue or sign a "religious exemption" form for any Catholic who seeks one as there are no grounds for such an exemption under Church teaching and doctrine.

For the past several months, our Holy Father Pope Francis has made it clear that the various forms of Covid vaccines are morally acceptable, urging Catholics across the globe to become vaccinated, not only for their own safety and well-being, but also out of concern for the weak and vulnerable in our midst.

Additionally, both the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith* and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** have stated that it is morally acceptable to be vaccinated as the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive.

That having been said, you as an individual Catholic are free to draw upon a well-formed conscience and dissent from this teaching but you cannot claim a religious exemption.

*https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

**<https://www.usccb.org/news/2021/us-bishop-chairmen-doctrine-and-pro-life-address-use-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine>

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