



The Latest

September 8, 2021

COVID-19

‘Religious’ Exemptions Add Legal Thorns to Looming Vaccine Mandates

Please read the entire article [here](#) on the KFF website. This presentation is a quick look at findings I found interesting that I would want to address in copy I was writing to move more people to get vaccinated.

Ruth Ann Barrett
Red Digital Marketing (RDM)
September 9, 2021



Mandates

“This country is going to mandates. It just is. Every other alternative has been tried,” said Dr. Monica Gandhi, an infectious diseases expert at UC-San Francisco.

Work Mandates

With workplace vaccine mandates in the offing, opponents are turning to a tried-and-true recourse for avoiding a covid-19 shot: the claim that vaccination interferes with religious beliefs.

Religious Exemption

“That phrase, ‘religious exemption,’ is very big. But it’s going to be quite hard in the current climate — in a mass health crisis, with a vaccine in place that works — to just let any such religious claims go.”

– Dr. Monica Gandhi

Respect Public Health
Authorities

No major denomination opposes vaccination.

Even the Christian Science Church, whose adherents rely largely on prayer rather than medicine, does not impose an official policy.

Conscientious Obedience
to laws of the land

It counsels “respect for public health authorities and conscientious obedience to the laws of the land, including those requiring vaccination.”

Morally acceptable choice about
your life and lives of others

In fact, [Pope Francis declared](#) it
“the moral choice because it is
about your life but also the lives of
others.”

... the Vatican has deemed it “morally
acceptable” to get a covid vaccination. In
fact, [Pope Francis declared](#) it “the moral choice
because it is about your life but also the lives of
others.”

Objection: Nobody should be able
to mandate...

Greg Fairrington, pastor of Destiny Christian Church,
told attendees at a church service, “Nobody should be
able to mandate that you have to take a vaccine or you
lose your job. That’s just not right, here in America.”

Indeed, while [pop-up anti-vaccine churches](#) have long
offered reluctant parents ways to exempt their kids
from shots, these days churches, internet-based
religious businesses and others seem to be offering
covid vaccination exemptions wholesale.

Exemptions Wholesale

Vaccine NOW fully
approved...

“...what’s in the vaccine,” then added, “I personally am over ‘Covid’ and the control the government is trying to implement on us!”

Seeking an exemption

Like other exemption seekers, even those who have posted in Facebook anti-vaccine groups, **she feared having other people know she sought an exemption.**

Still, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) grants [broad leeway](#) to what constitutes a sincerely held religious belief. As a result, some experts predict most employers and administrators won’t want to challenge such objections from their employees.

