



Police Academy

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Dear Chiefs and Sheriffs,

The Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy has revised COVID-19 protocols to reflect the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) and Southwestern Illinois College's (SWIC) standards.

In order to attend Session 22-A, March 7-18, 2022, all Officers/Deputies must be fully vaccinated and documentation sent to the Academy. Please note: All Officers/Deputies must be fully vaccinated 2 weeks before starting the Police Academy.

Attached are the ILETSB COVID-19 Protocols and a copy of the approved religious exemption document if needed.

If you need additional information or have any questions please contact the Academy at 618-222-5396.

Thank you,

Van Muschler
Director
SWIC Police Academy

Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy

COVID-19 Protocols

1	Recruits participating at SWIC full-time academy must be fully vaccinated at the time their academy class is to start. "Fully vaccinated against COVID-19" occurs <u>two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine</u> authorized for emergency use, licensed, or otherwise approved by the FDA, <u>or two weeks after receiving a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine</u> authorized for emergency use, licensed, or otherwise approved by the FDA. A recruit who fails to show proof of full vaccination may be removed by the academy director, subject to the exemptions below.
2	<u>Medical Exemption.</u> Any recruit who cannot receive a vaccine for medical reasons must submit a verification note issued by a treating physician, stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated. This note must be submitted to the recruit's employer for verification. If verified, the employing agency must notify the academy of the exemption and provide any supporting documentation.
3	<u>Religious Exemption.</u> Any recruit who chooses not to get a vaccine because it would require the individual to violate or forego a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance, must submit a verification note issued by a religious leader identifying the individual, and affirming their adherence to the faith or practice. This note must be submitted to the recruit's employer for verification. If verified, the employing agency must notify the academy of the exemption and provide any supporting documentation.
4	Any recruit who has not shown proof of vaccination (because of a medical or religious exemption) is responsible for regular testing. A recruit must obtain proof of a negative test to participate in academy activities and classroom instruction. Proof of a negative test shall allow the unvaccinated recruit to participate for five days after the date of the test. Unvaccinated recruits should test again within the five day period to remain active in the academy class. Testing must be done using PCR tests. If an unvaccinated recruit tests positive for COVID-19, the recruit must be temporarily removed from the academy and quarantine for no less than 10 days.
5	All recruits will be screened daily to ensure that none are exhibiting signs of fever (over 100.4) or respiratory illness (including but not limited to a persistent cough). If so, a PCR test should be administered and the individual dismissed until the results are available.
6	Rapid tests shall be administered to all recruits at least once a week by the training facility, if available . Any test utilized by an academy or accepted from an external testing entity must be approved by the FDA or U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Rapid tests (Binax, saliva based, or others) may be used for mass screenings; however PCR tests are required after an individual has tested positive.
7	In the event that a vaccinated recruit tests positive for COVID-19, then they must be temporarily removed from the academy and quarantine for 10 days. All other recruits should then immediately be tested as well and be monitored for potential exposure. If another recruit had close contact with someone who has tested positive, that recruit should also be removed and quarantine for at least ten days. An individual who has quarantined must demonstrate proof of a negative PCR test administered within three days prior to their return to the academy.

8	All recruits must wear masks while attending classroom instructions. Unvaccinated recruits must wear N-95 masks when masking is required, while vaccinated recruits may wear either a procedural (surgical) mask or an N-95 mask when masking is required. Masks may be removed temporarily while eating. Masks are not required when recruits are in private sleeping rooms. All recruits must wear a mask when inside of a vehicle with other recruits and staff members.
9	All recruits must wear a mask while attending physical trainings. If conducted outside, vaccinated and unvaccinated recruits may remove their masks; however, unvaccinated recruits must maintain social distancing. Physical trainings conducted inside will require all recruits to wear masks. Vaccinated recruits may participate in all physical activities while wearing a mask; however, unvaccinated recruits may only participate in control and arrest trainings conducted at half effort, and are prohibited from participating in wrestling, boxing, and other ground fighting trainings.
10	To the extent possible, the academy will separate vaccinated from unvaccinated recruits in an effort to reduce the possible spread of infection. This applies to any activities or accommodations involving the assignment of partners or groups. Distancing between unvaccinated recruits should also be maximized to the extent allowed.

Southwestern Illinois College

Police Academy

Request for Religious Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccine

Request for Religious Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccine Form for recruits attending the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy.

Name: _____
Department: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) policy requires that all full time recruits receive a COVID-19 vaccination. A religious exemption may be granted if (i) the individual holds sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of vaccination, (ii) completes this form, and (iii) provides the required documentation to support the exemption request. The Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) Police Academy is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive experience for all and recognizes sincere observance of faith as it pertains to the practice of vaccination. Religious exemption must be requested before the Police Academy Session begins. If approved, the exemption will remain in effect for the duration of the Police Academy Session.

Individuals with an approved exemption will be required to comply with COVID-19 testing and other preventive requirements as specified in the ILETSB September 2021 COVID Guidelines. In the event of an outbreak on or near campus, individuals with exemptions may be excluded from all campus facilities and activities, in order to protect all unvaccinated members of the SWIC community, until the outbreak is declared to be over.

While the SWIC Police Academy will carefully review all requests for religious exemptions, approval is not guaranteed. SWIC Police Academy will carefully review each request and determine if the request should be granted. After your request has been reviewed and processed, you will be notified, in writing, if an exemption has been granted or denied. The decision may be appealed to ILETSB.

Religious exemption process:

- Read the [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#);
- Complete and sign the following page of this form;
- Complete the Personal Statement Form;
- Have your religious leader complete the Religious Organization Statement Form; and
- Submit the completed documents.

Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed. Be sure all forms and documentation are submitted at one time.

Initial next to each of the statements below:

	I request exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement due to my sincere religious beliefs. I understand and assume the risks of non-vaccination. I accept full responsibility for my health, thus removing liability from SWIC Police Academy to the required vaccinations.
	I understand that as I am not vaccinated, in order to protect my own health and the health of the community, I will comply with assigned COVID-19 testing requirements and other preventive guidance.
	I understand that in the event of an outbreak or threatened outbreak, I may be temporarily excluded or reassigned from SWIC Police Academy College facilities and approved activities. I agree to comply with these restrictions and accept responsibility for communicating with Academy staff and my agency as appropriate to allow compliance with health and safety requirements for unvaccinated individuals.
	Should I contract COVID-19, I will immediately report it to SWIC and comply with all isolation and quarantine procedures specified by SWIC and remove myself from the SWIC community, if so advised.
	I acknowledge that I have read the CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Information .
	I understand and agree to comply with and abide by all SWIC Police Academy and ILETSB COVID-19 policies and procedures.
	I understand that, if approved, this exemption is provisional based on the current COVID-19 vaccination policy and is subject to change based on SWIC Police Academy or ILETSB
	I certify that the information I have provided in connection with this request is accurate and complete as of the date of submission. I understand this exemption may be revoked and I may be subject to disciplinary action if any of the information I provided in support of this exemption is false.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Personal Statement Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

In the space below, please provide a personal written and signed statement detailing the religious basis for your vaccination objection, explaining why you are requesting this religious exemption, the religious principle(s) that guide your objections to vaccination, and the religious basis that prohibits the COVID-19 vaccination. Please attach additional documentation, if necessary.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

I certify that my statement above is true and accurate and that I hold a sincere religious belief that is against the receipt of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Religious Organization Statement Form

Name of Observant: _____

Name of Religious Organization: _____

Religious Organization Address and Email: _____

Name of Religious Leader and Title:

For Religious Leader:

In the space below, please provide a written and signed statement supporting the basis of the observant's faith/beliefs which are contrary to the practice of vaccination or use of the COVID-19 vaccination. Please attach additional documentation, if necessary.

I certify that my statement above is true and accurate and that the above-named observant is a member of my religious organization in good standing and holds a sincere religious belief that is against the receipt of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____