

*This is a compilation of Q&A from the trainings that have been held, questions that have come in from [COVID19questions@bop.gov](mailto:COVID19questions@bop.gov), and elsewhere. Questions that are new or updated from previous versions have been **highlighted**.*

## Consents and Declinations

**UPDATED 9-29-21** - Where can I get the informed consent forms for employees and inmates to sign? [Employee and inmate consents have been posted to Sallyport. Inmate consents are also available through BEMR. It's important that institutions verify that they are using the most recent version of the consent form as they are regularly updated as CDC guidance changes.](#)

**NEW 10-5-21** – A staff member states that they will take the vaccine but refuses to sign the consent because the vaccine is not voluntary. Can I still give them the vaccine? [The consent is a medico-legal document and signature verifying they understand the risks and benefits of the vaccine is required prior to vaccination. If an employee refuses to sign the consent, they cannot be vaccinated.](#)

What if an employee refuses the vaccination, and also refuses to sign the declination? [Another employee should sign as a witness to the refusal.](#)

If someone answers “yes” to any of the screening questions on the consent, is it an absolute contraindication to vaccination? [Refer to the BOP COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for contraindications and precautions to vaccination.](#)

Will a specific hard copy consent form need to be signed by the employee and placed in their employee health file? Along with VAMS completion? [Yes, the hard copy consent or declination should be put in the employee file. A copy may be provided to the employee upon their request. Employees will also be given a completed vaccine card.](#)

Will there be an option for individuals who already had COVID-19 to check something like "previously diagnosed (+) for COVID-19" to designate purpose of refusal. [No, the CDC recommends vaccination for persons with a history of COVID-19 infection.](#)

Is there be a VIS (vaccine information statement) form? [Yes. The EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers serves as the VIS.](#)

Do we have to get a refusal to account for every inmate? What if the inmates refuse the second dose? [An inmate declination is required for every first dose. If the inmate accepts the first dose and then refuses the second, a declination is required for the second dose.](#)