



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant
Secretary for
Administration

Departmental
Administration

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Washington, DC
20250-9600

Sharon Block
Acting Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Dr. Block,

Pursuant to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 C.F.R. Part 1320, Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public, I request that the proposed information collection, the Agency Medical Exemption Form, OMB Control No. 0503-NEW, be processed as an Emergency Clearance Request in accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 1320.13, Emergency Processing.

We have determined that this information must be collected prior to the time periods established under Part 1320 of the regulations and that this information is essential to implement agencies' health and safety measures regarding the Federal Employee medical and religious exemptions to the vaccination requirement included within recent Safer Federal Workforce Task Force Guidance for COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccinations. Government agencies have an urgent need to request medical exemption information with input from medical providers from federal employees. Applying regular Paperwork Reduction Act clearance procedures is likely to cause harm because of the threat of COVID-19 exposure and transmission (5 C.F.R. § 1320.13(c)).

Therefore, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requests a 180-day emergency clearance to establish the Agency Medical Exemption Form, allowing individuals to request medical exemption with medical provider input from COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccinations. During the 180-day emergency approval, the Department of Agriculture will work to establish a regular clearance submission of this information collection request under the Paperwork Reduction Act procedures. As this request for approval concerns an urgent safety need, USDA is also seeking OMB's approval to waive the need for the Federal Register Notices otherwise required by 5 C.F.R. §§ 1320.5(a)(1)(iv) and 1320.8(d)(1) prior to publication and implementation of this disclosure.

We would appreciate if you could provide an approval/disapproval determination of this request to collect information under an emergency clearance by December 16, 2021.

Sincerely,

Oscar Gonzales
Assistant Secretary for Administration