

# **Joint Statement in Support of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates for All Workers in Health and Long-Term Care**

Due to the recent COVID-19 surge and the availability of safe and effective vaccines, our health care organizations and societies advocate that all health care and long-term care employers require their workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This is the logical fulfillment of the ethical commitment of all health care workers to put patients as well as residents of long-term care facilities first and take all steps necessary to ensure their health and well-being.

Because of highly contagious variants, including the Delta variant, and significant numbers of unvaccinated people, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are once again rising throughout the United States.<sup>1</sup> Vaccination is the primary way to put the pandemic behind us and avoid the return of stringent public health measures.

Unfortunately, many health care and long-term care personnel remain unvaccinated. As we move towards full FDA approval of the currently available vaccines, all health care workers should get vaccinated for their own health, and to protect their colleagues, families, residents of long-term care facilities and patients. This is especially necessary to protect those who are vulnerable, including unvaccinated children and the immunocompromised. Indeed, this is why many health care and long-term care organizations already require vaccinations for influenza, hepatitis B, and pertussis.

***We call for all health care and long-term care employers to require their employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.***

We stand with the growing number of experts and institutions that support the requirement for universal vaccination of health workers.<sup>3,4</sup> While we recognize some workers cannot be vaccinated because of identified medical reasons and should be exempted from a mandate, they constitute a small minority of all workers. Employers should consider any applicable state laws on a case-by-case basis.

Existing COVID-19 vaccine mandates have proven effective.<sup>5,6</sup> Mandates are an essential policy to increase vaccination rates in health care and long-term care settings and protect the health care workforce and the patients and residents we serve. Simultaneously, we recognize the historical mistrust of health care institutions, including among many in our own health care workforce. We must continue to address workers' concerns, engage with marginalized populations, and work with trusted messengers to improve vaccine acceptance.

As the health care community leads the way in requiring vaccines for our employees, we hope all other employers across the country will follow our lead and introduce effective vaccine requirements. The health and safety of U.S. workers, families, communities, and the nation depends on it.

## **SIGNATORIES**

(Listed Alphabetically)

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of PAs (AAPA)  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinology  
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Surgeons  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Nursing Association (ANA)  
American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA)  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Hematology  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)  
American Thoracic Society  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)  
Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS)  
Infectious Disease Society of America  
LeadingAge  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association of Indian Nurses of America  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA)  
Nurses Who Vaccinate  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN)  
Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc (PNAA)

Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Texas Nurses Association  
The Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)  
The John A. Hartford Foundation  
Transcultural Nursing Society  
Virgin Islands State Nurses Association  
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Covid Data Tracker Weekly Review. July 16, 2021. Retrieved July 22, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Covid-19 Vaccinations in the United States. Retrieved July 22, 2021. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>
3. Weber, D., Al-Tawfiq, J., Babcock, H., Bryant, K., Drees, M., Elshaboury, R., et al. (2021). Multisociety Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination as a Condition of Employment for Healthcare Personnel. *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, 1-46. doi:10.1017/ice.2021.322
4. American Hospital Association. AHA Policy Statement on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination of Health Care Personnel. July 21, 2021. <https://www.aha.org/public-comments/2021-07-21-aha-policy-statement-mandatory-covid-19-vaccination-health-care>
5. Bacon J. 'Condition of employment': Hospitals in DC, across the nation follow Houston Methodist in requiring vaccination for workers. *USA Today*. Available from: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/06/10/dc-hospitals-others-follow-houston-methodist-requiring-vaccination/7633481002/> [Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021].
6. Paulin E. More Nursing Homes Are Requiring Staff COVID-19 Vaccinations. *AARP*. Available from: <https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/health/info-2021/nursing-homes-covid-vaccine-mandate.html> [Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021].