

For Immediate Release

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**Leading Health Care Experts and Professional Organizations:
Businesses Should Support OSHA's COVID Vaccination Mandate**

*Groups include American Medical Association, American College of Physicians,
National Hispanic Medical Association, National Medical Association, and the American
Public Health Association*

(Nov. 18, 2021) Organizations representing the country's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health professionals joined with some of the country's most prominent health care experts to call on the business community to support the new federal requirement that those working for companies with more than 100 employees be vaccinated for COVID.

Those signing the statement include professional organizations such as: the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the National Hispanic Medical Association, the National League for Nursing, the National Medical Association, and the American Public Health Association plus prominent health leaders such as: Ezekiel Emanuel, Robert M. Wachter, Eric Topol, Tom Frieden, Andy Slavitt, Megan Ranney, Rick Bright, Ashish K. Jha, Luciana Borio, Uché Blackstock, Oni Blackstock, Michael Osterholm, and David Michaels.

"Instead of wasting time in court trying to overturn these mandates, business leaders should be focused on how to protect their employees from COVID through vaccination. That's the only way we'll be able to return to normal and stabilize our economy," said Emanuel, Vice Provost for Global Initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania, who organized the statement. "We've seen over and over that employer vaccine mandates work to raise vaccination rates, and they don't cause workforce shortages. It's time for the business community to step up and show the leadership our nation needs now."

Vaccines are extremely effective in preventing COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Compared to the vaccinated, the unvaccinated are 11 times more likely to die. Any risk in receiving the vaccine is considerably less common and less serious than the consequences of contracting COVID.

"The available COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and the widespread use of these vaccines is the best way to keep COVID-19 from spreading within workplaces. The more workers who get vaccinated, the closer we are to slowing the spread of the virus and creating a safer environment for everyone," said AMA President Gerald E. Harmon, M.D., whose organization filed an [amicus brief](#) last week to preserve OSHA's COVID-19 vaccine and testing mandate temporary standard. "We know that vaccine mandates work, they result in more people getting vaccinated. Now is the time for the public and private sectors to come together, listen to the science, and mandate vaccination so we can defeat the COVID-19 pandemic."

“When we first required health care workers to be vaccinated a few months ago, we anticipated some push back, but the results have been astonishing: nearly all health care workers have received their shots, and now our health care facilities and patients are better protected,” said Dr. Elena Rios, President and CEO of the National Hispanic Medical Association. “We’re at a critical crossroads in the pandemic where we have the ability to prevent the needless loss of lives and livelihoods, we just need more people to have the will to do so. It’s clear all employers should protect their workforces and their communities.”

“We cannot get this pandemic under control without increasing the vaccination rate,” said Wachter, Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). “And, at this point, the most effective way to do that is through mandates – which will protect workers and create safer workplaces. We encourage all employers to voluntarily enact this mandate as soon as possible.”

OSHA [issued](#) an emergency temporary standard on November 4, 2021 that established binding requirements for employers with 100 or more employees to mandate that their workers are either fully vaccinated or tested for COVID at least once per week. The rule would go into effect on January 4, 2022 and cover 84 million U.S. workers. National business industry organizations have since [sued](#) the Biden Administration over the requirements. Last week, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit temporarily [halted](#) the mandate.

The joint statement and full list of signatories is below:

Statement Supporting OSHA’s COVID Vaccination or Testing Requirement

Tragically, over 750,000 Americans have died of COVID since the beginning of 2020.¹ Many thousands have died from COVID contracted on the job, such as while caring for patients, supporting the elderly, preparing food for customers, selling goods in stores, and protecting the public from crime, fires, and other threats.

For example, in North Carolina nearly a quarter of COVID clusters are linked to workplace, retail and food settings.² COVID has also inflicted many other societal harms including loss of educational achievement and job opportunities, and increases in mental health challenges and social isolation, all of which have disproportionately hurt the most vulnerable.^{3,4}

To overcome COVID and the highly transmissible Delta variant, and return to “normal,” we need to substantially increase the vaccination rate from its current level of under 60 percent. We need to vaccinate about another quarter of the American population, roughly 80 million more people.

Vaccines are effective in preventing COVID cases, hospitalizations and, most importantly, deaths. Compared to the vaccinated, the unvaccinated are 11 times more likely to die.⁵ A recent study shows that in the United States, vaccines are five times more effective in preventing serious illness and hospitalization than a previous COVID infection.⁶ Any vaccine risk is considerably less common and less serious than the consequences of contracting COVID.

Finally, we know that vaccine mandates are effective. When employers require workers to get vaccinated, vaccination rates increase to over 90 percent.^{7,9} This is especially true for people who

intended to get vaccinated but have just delayed or procrastinated. Courts have repeatedly supported the legality of employer mandates.

We — physicians, nurses and advanced practice clinicians, health experts, and health care professional societies — fully support the requirement that workers at companies with over 100 workers be vaccinated or tested. This requirement by the Occupational, Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is reasonable and essential to protect workers.

We encourage all businesses with 100 or more employees to not delay in implementing this standard.

Requiring masks for all unvaccinated workers by the December 5th deadline will be key to keeping customers and fellow workers safe during the holiday shopping and travel season. And getting workers vaccinated or tested by the January 4th deadline will further protect workplaces and communities, bringing us closer to normal life and the end of this pandemic.

From the first day of this pandemic, businesses have wanted to vanquish this virus. Now is their chance to step up and show they are serious. Implementing these commonsense OSHA standards is an important step for our workers, businesses, and the nation as a whole.

Signatories

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI)
American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM)
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
American Association of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE)
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP)
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)
American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG)
American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT)
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP)
American College of Physicians (ACP)
American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM)
American College of Surgeons (ACS)
American Epilepsy Society (AES)
American Geriatrics Society (AGS)
American Medical Association (AMA)
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA)
American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)
American Public Health Association (APHA)
American Psychiatric Association (APA)
American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
American Society of Hematology (ASH)
American Society of Nephrology (ASN)

American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO)
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)
American Thoracic Society (ATS)
Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC)
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Association of Bioethics Program Directors (ABPD)
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON)
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN)
College of American Pathologists (CAP)
Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS)
Doctors for America (DFA)
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)
Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA)
Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
National League for Nursing (NLN)
National Medical Association (NMA)
National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC)
New Hampshire Nurses Association (NHNA)
Nurses Who Vaccinate (NWV)
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN)
Pediatric Infectious Disease Society (PIDS)
Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants (SEMPA)
Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO)
Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM)
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)
Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI)
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