

## Maryland Hospital Worker Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination – Consensus Statement –

June 7, 2021

Maryland's 60 hospitals and health systems are committed to make the state's hospitals safe for every patient, every visitor, and every staff member. As part of their commitment to that goal, participating hospitals have, through the auspices of the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), made a decision to require all employees and clinical team members to be vaccinated against COVID-19. MHA's Executive Committee endorses this action.

Maryland hospitals have seen first-hand the devastation COVID-19 has caused to the people of our state. They understand how deadly this disease can be. Leaders at Maryland's hospitals and health systems are stepping up to protect the health and wellness of their communities.

Hospitals are confident of both the science and the safety behind the vaccines. To date, approximately 70% of all Maryland hospital employees have been fully vaccinated, along with more than 3 million Marylanders overall and about 140 million Americans.

There have been minimal side effects and the benefits are great.

Each health system or hospital will set a date after which vaccination against COVID-19 will be a condition of employment (or contract engagement for non-employees who work at hospitals). Medical and religious exemptions will be determined by each health system or hospital.

All hospitals will continue to require other infection controls including wearing masks and other personal protective gear, social distancing, handwashing, and other measures per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.