

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 9, 2021

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Maryland Hospitals Join Together to Call for Employees to Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Elkridge, Md. – Maryland's hospitals and health systems joined together June 9, through the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), to call for all employees and clinical team members to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

This important step helps ensure the safety and well-being of Maryland hospital employees, patients, and visitors.

Under the statewide <u>consensus</u>, health systems and hospitals in Maryland will each 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). Hospitals will comply with all federal and state laws in granting appropriate exemptions for medical or religious reasons.

The decision was based on expert guidance and data showing the minimal risk of COVID-19 vaccines, compared to their high rates of effectiveness.

To date, roughly 70% of all Maryland hospital employees have been fully vaccinated, along with more than 3 million Marylanders overall and about 140 million Americans.

"Maryland's dedicated hospital workers have served bravely on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19 since the first cases emerged in Maryland 15 months ago," says Bob Atlas, President and CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association. "This consensus demonstrates hospitals' commitment to caring for their communities and fulfills their promise to put patients first."

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About the Maryland Hospital Association

The Maryland Hospital Association serves Maryland's 60 nonprofit hospitals and health systems through collective action to shape policies, practices, financing and performance to advance health care and the health of all Marylanders. For more information, visit www.mhaonline.org.