**The Biden Administration’s COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate:**

**New Information for the HCH Community**

**November 8, 2021**

Last week, the Biden Administration issued two emergency rules to provide further guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine mandate [announced](https://www.whitehouse.gov/covidplan/) in early September. One set of rules outlines the requirements for health care facilities, while the second set outlines those for private employers with 100+ employees. Over the weekend, a federal court temporarily blocked the private business rules, but it is unclear whether legal challenges will be successful. The National HCH Council has previously [endorsed organizations that issued vaccine mandates](https://nhchc.org/statement-on-covid-19-vaccine-mandates-for-staff-in-the-hch-community/), and we endorse these additional measures as well, which are designed to increase vaccination rates.

**As a result of these rules, the majority of the HCH community will be required to be fully vaccinated by January 6, 2022, with no option for testing.** This includes federally qualified health centers and medical respite care programs. Others in the HCH community who are not health care facilities, such as homeless services providers, will be subject to the private employer rule if their organization employs 100+ staff. In these cases, vaccine mandates are an option, with mandatory weekly testing for non-vaccinated employees. Organizations with fewer than 100 employees are not subject to these rules.

Vaccinations against COVID-19 are the best way to protect our staff, our patients/clients, our families, and our communities from further infections and illness. As a health care community caring for vulnerable people, it is both our mission and our obligation to ensure a safe and healthy workplace and clinic environment for everyone.

Please see our updated fact sheet **The Biden Administration’s COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate: Frequently Asked Questions for the HCH Community** for more details about how these two rules impact the HCH community.

# “People experiencing homelessness are disproportionately bearing the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. To stop this inequitable impact, we need to utilize every public health intervention possible. This includes everything from housing to vaccines. I applaud the Administration’s vaccine requirement as a solid additional step to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated.” – **Courtney Pladsen,** DNP, FNP-BC, RN, Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement