

CMS Issues COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers



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On Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [issued](#) its interim final rule requiring health care workers be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The rule applies to all health care facilities that participate in Medicare and Medicaid. Workers at such facilities must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

There are two important deadlines health care facilities should be aware of:

- By **Dec. 5, 2021**, facilities must establish a policy ensuring all eligible staff members have received at least the first dose of a two-dose vaccine or a one-dose vaccine prior to providing any care, treatment or other services.
- By **Jan. 4, 2022**, all eligible staff must be fully vaccinated.

The CMS, which enforces the vaccination requirement, says the rule affects nearly 76,000 facilities and cover over 17 million health care workers. The rule applies to all health facility employees, regardless of position.

Among the facility types covered by the rule are hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, dialysis facilities, home health agencies, and long-term care facilities.

The CMS rule preempts any inconsistent state and local laws.

What's Next?

Health care facilities should familiarize themselves with this latest vaccination requirement, develop appropriate policies, and ensure their workers are compliant by applicable deadlines.

View frequently asked questions related to the health care vaccination policy [here](#).