

Re: CMS Vaccine Mandate – Vaccination Information Required

Dear Valued Vendor/Contractor,

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued an Interim Final Rule requiring health care organizations participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs to implement a policy mandating the COVID-19 vaccination. The mandated vaccination policy covers certain personnel, including any vendors or individuals entering our facility "who provide care, treatment, or other services for the facility and/or its patients, under contract or other arrangement."

West Holt Medical Services (WHMS) is subject to CMS's COVID-19 vaccination mandate and, in consultation with legal counsel, has identified your organization covered by the COVID-19 policy requirements. WHMS is required to ensure all covered staff—which includes employees associated with your organization (including primary and any subcontracted employees) who enter our facility to provide care, treatment, or services—are fully vaccinated in compliance with our COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

NOTE: This obligation imposed by the federal government requires your compliance as a vendor providing services to WHMS. Unless you meet the compliance requirements below, your employees will be restricted from entering any WHMS building to provide any further services to WHMS.

VACCINATION STATUS

Specifically, we need to confirm that any of your employees **entering our facility** to provide services are fully vaccinated, unless an employee is exempted for a medical contraindication or a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance. Fully vaccinated is when an individual has completed primary vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine, with, if applicable, at least the minimum recommended interval between doses.

- Employees who enter our facilities need to submit acceptable proof of vaccination to WHMS CEO, Attention: Brian Martin (martinb@westholtmed.org) by **Friday, 11 February 2022**.

Acceptable proof of vaccination status includes:

1. CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (or a legible photo of the card)
2. Documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or electronic health record or
3. State immunization information system record.

Any information provided about COVID-19 vaccination status must be truthful and accurate information. *All collected medical information will be kept confidential* and treated in accordance with applicable laws and policies on confidentiality and privacy.

EXEMPTION REQUEST PROCESS

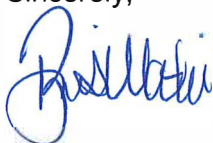
In some cases, a contracted employee may request an exemption from this mandatory vaccination policy if the vaccine is medically contraindicated for them or medical necessity requires a delay in vaccination. Such employees also may be legally entitled to a reasonable accommodation if they cannot be vaccinated because of a disability, or if the provisions in this policy for vaccination conflict with a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance. Decisions on exemption requests and reasonable accommodations will be made and reviewed by WHMS. The process must be initiated by making a request (see following forms) with Kristi Thornburg, Human Resources (thornburgk@westholtmed.org) (402) 925-1946 prior to entering the facility after **Sunday February 13th, 2022**.

Note that if a covered staff member is not fully vaccinated (e.g., if they are granted an exemption from the mandatory vaccination requirement because the vaccine is contraindicated for them), WHMS's existing COVID-19 or infection control standards will apply, which may include additional precautions intended to mitigate the transmission and spread of COVID-19.

Please contact Brian D. Martin, WHMS CEO with questions at (402) 925-1945 or by email: matinb@westholtmed.org.

We thank you for your contributions to WHMS.

Sincerely,



Brian D. Martin
Chief Executive Officer
West Holt Medical Services

[Follow this link to download WHMS Exemption Forms.](#)