



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 4, 2021

**TO:** Medicaid Providers

**FROM:** Louisiana Medicaid

**SUBJECT:** Biden-Harris Administration Issues Emergency Regulation Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Care Workers

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The Biden-Harris Administration is requiring COVID-19 vaccination of eligible staff at health care facilities that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The emergency regulation issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 4, 2021, will apply to approximately 76,000 providers and cover over 17 million health care workers across the country.

Facilities covered by this regulation must establish a policy ensuring all eligible staff have received the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine prior to providing any care, treatment, or other services by December 5, 2021. All eligible staff must have received the necessary shots to be fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022. The regulation also provides for exemptions based on recognized medical conditions or religious beliefs, observances, or practices. Facilities must develop a similar process or plan for permitting exemptions in alignment with federal law.

CMS will ensure compliance with these requirements through established survey and enforcement processes. If a provider or supplier does not meet the requirements, it will be cited as being non-compliant and have an opportunity to return to compliance before additional actions occur.

To view the interim final rule with comment period, visit:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2021-23831/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-omnibus-covid-19-health-care-staff-vaccination>

To view a list of frequently asked questions, visit: [www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-omnibus-staff-vax-requirements-2021.docx](http://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-omnibus-staff-vax-requirements-2021.docx)

Read the full announcement [here](#) on the CMS website.