



Vaccine Mandate (CMS) Announcement Response August 19, 2021

Team Members,

Yesterday, the Biden administration announced its intentions to require that nursing home staff be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition for those facilities to continue receiving federal Medicare and Medicaid funding. Messiah Lifeways is aware of this announcement and is in the process of evaluating its implications on our organization. There have been very few specifics given at this time, so we will await further details from regulatory agencies before reacting to this directive.

We would like to emphasize that, while we have not mandated vaccinations to date, Messiah Lifeways stands behind the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines and has strongly encouraged all team members to get vaccinated as soon as the vaccines became available. The safety of residents remains a top priority. Currently, approximately 71% of Nursing care team members have been vaccinated, with a lower percentage for the organization as a whole.

We understand that some team members have hesitations -- we don't want to lose you as a part of our team. We encourage you to consult with your physician, speak with a fellow team member who has been vaccinated about their experiences, and [wait for further details](#). We are also aware that there will be medical and religious exemptions to this mandate, and we will honor those exceptions. In addition, this webpage has a lot of helpful resources compiled by our Clinical team:

MessiahLifeways.org/blog/vaccine.

If you have already been vaccinated but have not shown proof of vaccination to a nurse educator, please do so ASAP so that we have accurate information.

Please talk with your supervisor if you have questions at this time. Thank you for your patience as we navigate this new phase of the pandemic.

Executive Team