

FIGHT COVID-19 | GET VACCINATED



Date: August 2, 2021

To: All QHS Employees and Medical Staff

From: Jill Hoggard Green, PhD, RN, QHS President and CEO
Jason Chang, QHS Executive Vice President and COO

Subject: **Required COVID-19 Vaccinations for QHS Personnel and Visitors**

Aloha,

The dramatic rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in our state has been sobering, and we recognize the physical and emotional toll this surge is having on our caregivers. Our hearts are with each one of you as you continue to demonstrate your resilience during the most challenging of times.

Queen's is deeply committed to the health and well-being of our staff, patients and visitors. We know that the best way to protect ourselves against this rapidly-spreading virus is to get vaccinated. To maintain the safe environment at our hospitals and help curb the prevalence of COVID in our communities, we are implementing the following system-wide policies:

- **Effective Friday, October 1, 2021, all Queen's physicians and staff will be required to be fully vaccinated with one of the FDA-EUA COVID-19 vaccines.** Exemptions will be provided for medical reasons as well as accommodations consistent with federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines (e.g., a sincerely held religious belief, practice or observance).

Unvaccinated physicians and staff will be subject to weekly COVID testing. Those who do not get tested or who test positive will not be allowed to work.

This policy will apply to all personnel at Queen's (e.g., affiliated physicians, nurses, EVS personnel, security officers, remote workers, etc.). Between now and October 1, we will provide more opportunities/greater access for you to get vaccinated.

With this move, QHS will join health care organizations across the country that are requiring COVID vaccination for their employees.

- **Effective this Wednesday, August 4, 2021, only visitors who are vaccinated against COVID-19 will be allowed to visit patients in our hospitals.** Exceptions will be made for newborn and end-of-life visits. Only one visitor will be allowed per patient in order to better protect our patients and staff from COVID.

Upon arrival, visitors will undergo a temperature and symptom check at our screening stations. They will be asked to produce proof of vaccination and an ID card. Once cleared, they will be given a daily pass sticker and may proceed with their visit. Those who are unvaccinated will be asked to return when they have proof of immunization.

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These decisions were made after careful consideration. Ultimately, the safety of everyone at our facilities is paramount. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called the current surge “a pandemic of the unvaccinated” because the majority of hospital admissions and deaths have been among those who aren’t immunized.

Scientific evidence indicates COVID-19 vaccines are effective at reducing both the risk of becoming infected and spreading the virus to others. **Getting vaccinated, wearing a mask and practicing physical distancing are the best ways to keep yourself, your ‘ohana and your patients safe.**

If you have questions regarding these policies, please contact our HR Service Center at 808-691-4627.

Mahalo.