



An update from us about the new vaccine requirement for health care providers

On August 9, 2021 Governor Inslee announced a COVID vaccine requirement for most health care providers and workers. This includes mental health clinicians. We have gathered the information specific to mental health counselors to clarify any questions for our members.

- The deadline to get completely vaccinated is October 18, 2021
- The proclamation requires "health care providers" to get vaccinated.
- "Health care provider" is defined as
 - Individuals holding a license, certification or registration from the Washington State Department of Health, listed [here](#), who are actively practicing or providing services to people.
- Health care settings include:
 - Inpatient behavioral health facilities, including, but not limited to, evaluation and treatment facilities, residential treatment facilities, and secure detox facilities .
 - Outpatient facilities, including, but not limited to, dialysis centers, physician offices, behavioral health facilities, behavioral health agencies and private/group practice behavioral health settings (including offices of psychiatrists, mental health counselors, and substance use disorder professionals)

More to know

- This applies to licensed health care providers even if they only provide telehealth services.
- Masks are required indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- The Department of Health does not have forms for proving vaccine status or for requesting a reasonable accommodation. You should be able to get these from your employer or human resources office.

Resources:

[Department of Health Release About the Vaccines](#)
[Vaccine Toolkit for Businesses and Employers](#)

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