

## Lehigh Valley Health Network Policy for COVID and Influenza Vaccines

**Notice: All Colleagues and Non-Employed LVHN Partners, including remote workers, will be required to be vaccinated after the first COVID-19 vaccine receives full FDA approval.**

### COVID Vaccine Policy

On Monday, Aug. 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted full approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. As a result, LVHN's [COVID-19 vaccination policy](#) will take effect Tuesday, Aug. 24. All colleagues, **including remote workers**, must receive their first dose or have submitted a medical or religious exemption request by Sept. 14. All colleagues who are not approved for exemption must complete the vaccine series by Oct. 19.

This means the FDA will have reviewed more than six months of data that supports the fact that the vaccine is safe and effective. This is the same rigorous assessment and approval process required for all other vaccines currently approved for use in the United States, many of which are required for employment at LVHN and other health care organizations.

- Now that the FDA has granted approval, unvaccinated colleagues will have three weeks to receive their first dose and eight weeks to complete the vaccine series.
- If the FDA should ever approve the need for a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, all colleagues and non-employed LVHN partners will be required to receive it under this policy.
- This policy also applies to non-employed LVHN partners including volunteers, students and residents, services employees, **vendors, contracted workers** and others. These groups **cannot request exemption** and must be vaccinated to work in LVHN facilities. LVHN leaders with oversight of our non-employed partners are responsible for their compliance.
- This policy also applies to fully remote workers, including vendors and contracted workers.
- This policy applies to all vendor representatives visiting any LVHN location, including resources providing training, maintenance, and system implementation services.

### Revised Influenza Vaccine Policy

In 2021, all colleagues and non-employed LVHN partners also will be required to receive the influenza vaccine. Previously, only colleagues in patient-facing roles were required to get the influenza vaccine. Colleagues and independent medical staff may request a medical or religious exemption. **Non-employed LVHN partners cannot request exemption.** The revised policy is forthcoming. Details about our influenza vaccine clinics for colleagues will be shared as flu season approaches. Requiring all colleagues and non-employed LVHN partners to get the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines will help ensure we provide the safest possible care to our patients and keep colleagues and community members safe.