

TTUHSC Students and Team Members,

On January 20, 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provided updated guidance for the [Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination requirement](#). The guidance requires that Medicare and Medicaid providers in Texas, subject to the mandate, ensure certain health care workers receive the first of a multidose COVID-19 vaccine, the single-dose vaccine, have a pending request for an exemption, or be granted an exemption by February 19, 2022. The guidance also requires that health care workers receive the second dose of a multidose COVID-19 vaccine or be granted an exemption by March 21, 2022.

Who is impacted?

If you work or learn at a site impacted by the CMS vaccination requirement, you will be subject to that site's vaccine mandate.

FQHCs

The CMS requirement applies to the following locations of our Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC):

- **Larry Combest Community Health & Wellness Center**
- **Combest Central Community Health Center**
- **Abilene Community Health Center**

For students and team members who do not comply with the vaccination requirement or receive an approved medical or religious exemption, there will be an impact on their ability to work and learn at the FQHC sites.

For more information, please see [CMS MANDATED COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT OF TTUHSC FQHC SITES](#) — Attachment G to [TTUHSC Operating Policy 75.11](#).

At this time, the above FQHC sites are the only TTUHSC clinical locations to which the CMS vaccination requirement applies. If we identify any impact on other TTUHSC clinics, we will provide further communication.

Non-TTUHSC Sites

Program directors for each of the TTUHSC schools will work with the [TTUHSC Office of Institutional Health](#) to identify sites where students and team members work or learn that are implementing the CMS vaccination requirement. As those sites are identified, respective supervisors and directors will notify those individuals regarding the vaccination requirement, steps necessary to report vaccine status, and how to submit a request for exemption.

Failure to comply with the site's mandate or receive an approved medical or religious exemption may impact the ability to provide care, obtain required clinical hours, and maintain credentialing as a site may provide in its policies. Such actions may impact a student's or team member's ability to meet contractual and educational requirements.

For more information, please see [CMS MANDATED COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT OF Non-TTUHSC SITES](#) — Attachment H of [TTUHSC Operating Policy 75.11](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting

If the CMS vaccination requirement impacts you, the [TTUHSC Office of Institutional Health](#) will reach out to request your COVID-19 vaccination status if it does not already have your information. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination may include a CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card or a legible photo of the card, documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or electronic health record, or a state immunization information system record.

Exemptions from COVID-19 Vaccination

Some students and team members may be eligible for an exemption from the CMS vaccination requirements for medical or religious reasons. A [medical exemption form](#) is provided in Attachment I to TTUHSC OP 75.11. A [religious exemption form](#) is provided in Attachment J to TTUHSC OP 75.11.

Exemption forms must be submitted no later than **February 9, 2022**, or earlier if required by a non-TTUHSC site upon notification by your respective supervisor or program director.

All medical exemption request forms must be submitted [HERE](#).

All religious exemption request forms must be submitted [HERE](#).

If you requested an exemption from the vaccination requirement in November or December 2021, please note that you will receive notification in the coming days regarding your pending request.

We appreciate your understanding as we have navigated through these legal requirements essential for us to comply with the CMS vaccination requirement.

As a health institution, we continue to strongly recommend COVID-19 vaccination, to protect our TTUHSC community and those we serve. I encourage each of us to continue to following [existing infection control protocols](#) as we move forward as ONE TEAM to fulfill the mission of our great university.

Sincerely,



Lori Rice-Spearman, Ph.D.

PRESIDENT

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center