



To: Healthcare Providers
From: Cheryl Bettigole, M.D., M.P.H., and Jill Bowen, Ph.D.
Date: Sept. 1, 2021
Re: **Policy Reminder: COVID-19 Vaccination
Not Required for Patient Admissions**

Healthcare Providers:

The continued health and wellbeing of healthcare workers and patients remains the highest priority for the City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS).

Both departments are reaching out today to clarify that, while [guidelines were issued recently mandating the COVID-19 vaccine for healthcare workers](#), patient vaccination status should not play a role in whether the patient is admitted for services.

We continue to urge that every person in Philadelphia and beyond get vaccinated and wear a mask for their own safety and that of others. The vaccine mandate for healthcare workers is designed to increase their safety because patients may or may not be vaccinated.

It's important to remember that while being vaccinated is the best way to reduce your chances of having a serious COVID infection, there are things that everyone can do to reduce their risk of infection.

- Wear a mask when indoors around others; no mask is needed when alone in a room with the door closed
- Wash your hands often
- Give others plenty of space and try to hold gatherings outdoors or in well-ventilated spaces if possible
- Keep an eye out for COVID symptoms and test promptly
- Contact the Health Department with any questions or concerns

Together we can get past this pandemic and get back to providing the care and compassion that we're used to delivering. Thank you for doing your part.

Cheryl Bettigole, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Health Commissioner



Jill Bowen, Ph.D.
DBHIDS Commissioner

