

Change to COVID-19 Requirements for Health Care Workers

UAMS was notified June 1, 2023, that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has withdrawn its COVID-19 health care staff vaccination requirements. Therefore, **UAMS employees are no longer required to have a COVID vaccine or documented medical or religious exemption.**

CMS quality measures still require that UAMS report the proportion of health care workers who are vaccinated, so Student and Employee Health Services (SEHS) will continue to collect this data as employees join UAMS.

Clinical employees working closely with or in proximity to COVID-positive patients are still required to wear appropriate PPE, which may include a face mask, goggles, gloves, and a gown.

As the FDA and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) continue to monitor and evaluate the need for COVID-19, influenza and other vaccines that protect health care staff and patients, UAMS will comply with regulatory guidelines and may implement vaccinations that go beyond the minimum required in order to provide the safest environment possible. Additionally, masking requirements **MAY** change if infection rates surge for infectious diseases, including requiring that unvaccinated employees wear masks at all times.

Guidance is subject to change as more information is received.