Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

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Statement by the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems regarding hospital policies for vaccinating health care workers

"Vermont has taken wise steps to stay ahead of the COVID-19 curve, including facilitating a high rate of vaccination that has saved lives and minimized hospitalizations. It is now increasingly clear that vaccines safely reduce the risk of getting COVID-19 or becoming severely ill from the virus.

"With that growing body of evidence, and our shared commitment to the safety and well-being of patients and staff members, VAHHS supports hospital and health system efforts and policies to mandate or encourage vaccines for their entire staff.

"Currently, nearly 84% of Vermonters have at least one vaccine dose, and the rate of uptake among health care workers is in the same range or higher. Maintaining Vermont's success against COVID-19 requires that we continue to take all steps we can to mitigate the infection rate and keep Vermont safe and healthy. Hospital patients in particular can have compromised immunity or other complications that make vaccination problematic, providing yet another reason to ensure that all health care workers are fully protected against COVID-19.

"Hospitals have played a major role in coordinating Vermont's effective response to the pandemic and in helping to educate Vermonters. Meanwhile, caregivers throughout the country have seen the dire consequences of COVID infections and skipping vaccination. Health care workers now have an opportunity to help boost public awareness and confidence by becoming 100% vaccinated themselves.

"This is a crucial time in the COVID-19 battle. Our state continues to follow the science and the evidence, which shows vaccines are our best, safest, and most effective way to avert the still dangerous virus. VAHHS fully supports hospitals and health systems that take well thought out steps to ensure their workforces are protected."

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