

## COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

### FACT SHEET

#### Primary Course of Vaccinations

On August 27, 2021, regulations were issued requiring the following individuals receive the first dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (i.e., Moderna or Pfizer) and receive the second dose within the time established in the dosing schedule for the vaccine or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine no later than September 30, 2021, unless DC Health has issued an exemption for the vaccination requirements:

- Health professionals who are licensed, registered, or certified by the Department of Health, and
- Unlicensed personnel in a Healthcare setting in the District of Columbia.

The Director adopted the rules as final on November 10, 2021. The rules became effective on December 10, 2021. ([Notice of Final Rulemaking Effective December 10, 2021](#))

#### Health Care Facilities

A Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking was published in the D.C. Register on October 22, 2021 at 68 DCR 011146 requiring health care facilities to: (1) require their employees, contractors, or volunteers to obtain vaccinations for COVID-19, and (2) impose COVID-19-related obligations on health care facilities. An emergency version of this rule was adopted on October 7, 2021 and became effective immediately on that date. On March 25, 2022, the final rules were published and immediately became effective. ([Notice of Final Rulemaking Effective March 25, 2022](#))

#### Boosters

On February 8, 2022, an emergency rulemaking was adopted that modified sections 230 and 231 of Chapter 2 (Communicable and Reportable Diseases) of Subtitle B (Public Health and Medicine) of Title 22 (Health) of the DCMR to require health professional and unlicensed personnel to be “up to date” on COVID-19 vaccines. Pursuant to the February 8, 2022, emergency rule, “up to date” meant a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including any booster dose(s) and annual vaccine doses, when eligible for such doses, as set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, the emergency rulemaking was **rescinded** on April 6, 2022. As a result of the rescission, DC health is not requiring health professionals who are licensed, registered, or certified by the Department of Health, and unlicensed personnel in a healthcare setting in the District of Columbia, to receive any booster doses for COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **\*\*\*NOTE**

Notwithstanding the rescission: Please note health professionals who are licensed, registered, or certified by the Department of Health, and unlicensed personnel in a healthcare setting in the District of Columbia, are still required to receive the first dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (i.e., Moderna or Pfizer) and receive

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the second dose within the time period established in the dosing schedule for the vaccine or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine no later than September 30, 2021, unless DC Health has issued an exemption for the vaccination requirements. Failure to meet this requirement can result in disciplinary action including suspension and revocation of a health professional's license.

Further, health care facilities must comply with the final rules published on March 25, 2022, found at 22B DCMR 112. For licensed and unlicensed personnel, no Healthcare facility, after, regardless of the date of hire, shall employ, contract, or grant privileges to a person who is not fully vaccinated.

### Exemptions:

Pursuant to the applicable regulations only DC Health will find that an individual is in compliance if (1) they received the appropriate doses of the COVID-19 vaccination, or the individual was issued an exemption from DC Health.

**To receive consideration for an exemption you must follow the instructions below. Failure to follow the instructions as provided will not only delay any consideration for your request of an exemption but may also result in a denial of the exemption request.**

- For religious exemptions, individuals will need to upload a letter, stating that their vaccination against COVID-19 would violate a sincerely held religious belief and the vaccination would in fact violate a sincerely held religious belief of the person.
- For medical exemption requests, individuals will need to provide the name and license number of the healthcare provider who issued the medical exemption, and then upload a written letter from that licensed healthcare provider stating that being vaccinated against COVID-19 is medically inadvisable due to the person's medical condition and it is in fact medically inadvisable for the person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- For the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) exemption, individuals will need to upload proof of vaccination of a W.H.O. approved vaccine and provide dates of vaccination.
- All exemptions must be reviewed and approved by DC Health. Please allow time for the review and approval process.