

To all Students and Faculty,

Following yesterday's announcement of full FDA approval for the Pfizer vaccine, Ochsner is now moving forward with our Mandatory Vaccination Plan for employed physicians, APPs and all employees, vendors, contracted staff, medical and allied health students, residents, fellows and agency staff. We are proud to take this step as part of our enduring commitment to the health and safety of our patients and our commitment to *you* – the healthcare professionals who give so much in service to others.

Our employees and patients deserve the security of knowing that giving and receiving care at Ochsner Lafayette General is safe, and that it comes without the risk of interacting with an unvaccinated care team. This step toward full vaccination is in addition to the upgraded Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards already in place to protect you and your coworkers from COVID-19.

The safety and effectiveness of vaccines is proven. Nearly 5 billion doses have been given globally, while in the United States 361 million shots have been safely administered. We join **physicians, researchers and global healthcare leaders who all agree that the safe, effective vaccines available to us prevent death, hospitalization and severe disease. They are the key to ending this pandemic and its serious consequences to global physical, mental and economic health.**

In July, we announced our plan to require employee vaccination upon FDA approval and we stand together with others across the state who understand the critical importance of vaccines to protect their employees and the health of their regions. **We join more than 30% of U.S. hospitals (2,000 and counting) that have mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for their workforce, including many hospitals and healthcare facilities in communities across Louisiana.**

Despite 18 months working around the clock to fight COVID-19, Louisiana has lost 12,000 lives to the pandemic while the national toll has reached a staggering 628,000 deaths. **With the aggressive Delta variant sweeping our region, we must take every available measure to keep our staff, patients and communities safe. And the best way to do it is through widespread vaccination.**

Requirements and deadlines

- All individuals must be fully vaccinated by Friday, **October 29**. To meet this deadline, a first dose of Moderna (still under Emergency Use Authorization) should be complete by **October 1** and a first dose of Pfizer (now FDA approved) should be complete by **October 8**. Johnson & Johnson (still under Emergency Use Authorization) is recommended any time prior to the deadline based on inventory. Note: You may choose to receive full doses of any of these three vaccines and remain in compliance. Please choose the vaccine that is right for you.
- Students and Faculty not fully vaccinated by the deadline will not be allowed to practice on any Ochsner Lafayette General campuses beginning **November 1st**.
- Green badge holders will still be distributed and required for fully vaccinated employees and students. Per dress code policy, please always keep your badge visible in the holder when on campus.
- **For community physicians and APPs, we'll be collaborating with medical executive committees and CEOs at each facility to work on timelines.**

Thank you

As Louisiana's largest employer, healthcare system and educator of medical professionals, Ochsner will continue to lead in the best interest of our employees and our patients. We exist to serve and to heal and we remain grateful for your service.

Remember: without you, there is no us. We look forward to celebrating better days ahead with each one of you. Thank you for being a part of Ochsner Health.



Patrick Gandy, Jr. CPA
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