

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: September 8, 2021

From: Associate Chief of Staff-Education, Overton Brooks VA Medical Center

Subj: VHA Directive 1193 – Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Program for Veterans Health Administration Health Care Personnel & associated exemptions.

To: Academic institution affiliates of Overton Brooks VA Medical Center

1. VHA Directive 1193 established policy and guidance for mandatory coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination among health care personnel working in Veterans Health Administration Facilities. The Directive was updated August 13th, 2021 to include health care trainees in the mandatory requirements. The Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Academic Affiliations has further clarified procedures regarding trainee COVID-19 vaccinations and exemptions.
2. In keeping with the above guidance, healthcare trainees that choose to rotate at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center are required to complete a COVID-19 vaccine series by October 7th, 2021. If healthcare trainees have a valid medical reason or deeply held religious belief that would prevent vaccination against COVID-19, they must file an exemption to this requirement by completing VA form 10-263 and submitting it to the Overton Brooks VA Education Service by October 7th, 2021. Trainees that do not have an exemption on file will not be permitted to rotate after that date.
3. Healthcare trainees that file an exemption must wear an appropriate medical-grade mask on VA grounds as required by local policy and each Monday must submit the results of weekly COVID-19 tests to Education Service staff. Trainees will be permitted to rotate only if a negative test result from the prior week is received. Affiliated academic institutions may choose to provide COVID-19 testing services to their students, or students may choose to obtain tests independently.
4. Healthcare trainees should submit VA form 10-263 and COVID-19 testing results to the following Education Service staff:
 - (a) Mr. Lane Carlisle, for nursing students
Office: 318-990-5109
Fax: 318-990-5761
Email: Lane.Carlisle@va.gov

(b) Mr. Allen Schaefer, for medical students, residents, fellows, and allied health students

Office: 318-990-5021

Fax: (318) 990-5761

Email: Allen.Schaefer@va.gov

5. The Medical Center Director retains the ultimate authority to permit exempted trainees to rotate at Overton Brooks VA.
6. Overton Brooks VAMC would like to reiterate the CDC's endorsement of the safety and effectiveness of currently available COVID-19 vaccines and encourages healthcare trainees to consider vaccination, particularly in light of the ongoing burden of COVID-19 on our healthcare system, the high likelihood of future outbreaks, and the duty to protect veterans and patients from harm.

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ACOS-E/Designated Education Officer
Overton Brooks VA Medical Center