

## **Vaccination Policy: Mandatory**

### **Purpose**

In accordance with National Hospice Management's duty to provide and maintain a workplace that is free of known hazards and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations of which we are federally funded, we are adopting this policy to safeguard the health of our employees and their families; our customers and visitors; and the community at large from infectious diseases, such as COVID-19 or influenza that may be reduced by vaccinations. This policy will comply with all applicable laws and is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health authorities, as applicable.

### **Scope**

All employees are required to receive vaccinations as determined by the CMS Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Interim Final Rule, unless a reasonable accommodation is approved.

All employees covered by this policy are required to be fully vaccinated as a term and condition of employment at National Hospice Management. Employees are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after completing primary vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine, with, if applicable, at least the minimum recommended interval between doses. For example, this includes two weeks after a second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two weeks after the second dose of any combination of two doses of different COVID-19 vaccines as part of one primary vaccination series. All employees are required to report their vaccination status and to provide proof of vaccination. Employees must provide truthful and accurate information about their COVID-19 vaccination status, and, if applicable, their testing results. Employees not in compliance with this policy will be placed on unpaid leave until their employment status is determined by the human resources department.

Employees may request an exception from this mandatory vaccination policy if the vaccine is medically contraindicated for them or medical necessity requires a delay in vaccination. Employees also may be legally entitled to a reasonable accommodation if they cannot be vaccinated and/or wear a face covering (as otherwise required by this policy) because of a disability, or if the provisions in this policy for vaccination, and/or testing for COVID-19, and/or wearing a face covering conflict with a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance. Requests for exceptions and reasonable accommodations must be initiated by completing the applicable form (NHM-592-H Request for Accommodation-Medical Request Form or NHM-591-H Request for Accommodation-Religious) and submitting to their immediate supervisor by EOD November 30, 2021. All such requests will be handled in accordance with applicable laws and regulations as well as National Hospice Management's policies and procedures.

### **Reasonable Accommodation**

Employees in need of an exemption from this policy due to a medical reason, or because of a sincerely held religious belief must submit a completed Request for Accommodation form

(NHM-592-H Request for Accommodation-Medical Request Form or NHM-591-H Request for Accommodation-Religious) to the human resources department to begin the interactive accommodation process as soon as possible after vaccination deadlines have been announced. Accommodations will be granted where they do not cause National Hospice Management undue hardship or pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

## Procedures

### Overview and General Information

All NHM employees must be fully vaccinated no later than January 4, 2022.

To be fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022, an employee must follow the schedule below:

The following chart shows type of vaccination(s) covered by this policy and the timeframe(s) for having the vaccine(s) administered.

Manufacturer	1 <sup>st</sup> dose no later than	2 <sup>nd</sup> dose no later than
Johnson & Johnson	December 5	n/a
Pfizer	December 5	January 4
Moderna	December 5	January 4

*Employees will be considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the requisite number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. An employee will be considered partially vaccinated if they have received only one dose of a two dose vaccine.*

National Hospice Management will provide a list of locations to assist employees in receiving the vaccine on their own.

National Hospice Management will pay for all vaccinations; COVID-19 vaccinations are free, whether an individual has health insurance or not. Vaccinations should be run through your health insurance and be submitted for reimbursement where applicable.

All employees will be paid for time taken to receive vaccinations. For offsite vaccinations, employees are to work with their managers to schedule appropriate time to comply with this policy.

Before the stated deadlines above to be vaccinated have expired, employees will be required to provide either proof of vaccination or an approved reasonable accommodation to be exempted from the requirements.

### **Vaccination Status and Acceptable Forms of Proof of Vaccination**

All vaccinated employees are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, regardless of where they received vaccination. Proof of vaccination status can be submitted by handing it to their immediate supervisor.

Acceptable proof of vaccination status is:

1. The record of immunization from a healthcare provider or pharmacy;
2. A copy of the COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card;
3. A copy of medical records documenting the vaccination;
4. A copy of immunization records from a public health, state, or tribal immunization information system; or
5. A copy of any other official documentation that contains the type of vaccine administered, date(s) of administration, and the name of the healthcare professional(s) or clinic site(s) administering the vaccine(s).

Proof of vaccination generally should include the employee's name, the type of vaccine administered, the date(s) of administration, and the name of the healthcare professional(s) or clinic site(s) that administered the vaccine. In some cases, state immunization records may not include one or more of these data fields, such as clinic site; in those circumstances National Hospice Management will still accept the state immunization record as acceptable proof of vaccination.

If an employee is unable to produce one of these acceptable forms of proof of vaccination, despite attempts to do so (e.g., by trying to contact the vaccine administrator or state health department), the employee can provide a signed and dated statement attesting to their vaccination status (fully vaccinated or partially vaccinated); attesting that they have lost and are otherwise unable to produce one of the other forms of acceptable proof; and including the following language:

"I declare (or certify, verify, or state) that this statement about my vaccination status is true and accurate. I understand that knowingly providing false information regarding my vaccination status on this form may subject me to criminal penalties."

An employee who attests to their vaccination status in this way should, to the best of their recollection, include in their attestation the type of vaccine administered, the date(s) of administration, and the name of the healthcare professional(s) or clinic site(s) administering the vaccine.

All vaccine information will be kept in the HR portal and tracked for compliance.

### **Supporting COVID-19 Vaccination**

An employee may take up to four hours of duty time per dose to travel to the vaccination site, receive a vaccination, and return to work. This would mean a maximum of eight hours of duty

time for employees receiving two doses. If an employee spends less time getting the vaccine, only the necessary amount of duty time will be granted. Employees who take longer than four hours to get the vaccine must send their supervisor an email documenting the reason for the additional time (e.g., they may need to travel long distances to get the vaccine). Any additional time requested will be granted, if reasonable, but will not be paid; in that situation, the employee can elect to use accrued leave, e.g., sick leave, to cover the additional time. If an employee is vaccinated outside of their approved duty time they will not be compensated.

Employees may utilize up to two workdays of sick leave immediately following each dose if they have side effects from the COVID-19 vaccination that prevent them from working. Employees who have no sick leave will be granted up to two days of additional sick leave immediately following each dose if necessary.

The following procedures apply for requesting and granting duty time to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine or sick leave to recover from side effects:

An employee must notify their supervisor immediately if they are experiencing side effects from the COVID-19 vaccination in order to obtain necessary approval for that time to be paid as sick leave and this time will be noted on the Employee's Timesheet as such.

### **COVID-19 Testing**

If an employee covered by this policy is not fully vaccinated and granted an exception from the mandatory vaccination requirement because the vaccine is contraindicated for them, the employee will be required to comply with this policy for testing.

Employees who report to the workplace at least once every seven days:

- (A) must be tested for COVID-19 at least once every seven days; and
- (B) must provide documentation of the most recent COVID-19 test result to [the supervisor] no later than the seventh day following the date on which the employee last provided a test result.

Any employee who does not report to the workplace during a period of seven or more days (e.g., if they were teleworking for two weeks prior to reporting to the workplace):

- (A) must be tested for COVID-19 within seven days prior to returning to the workplace; and
- (B) must provide documentation of that test result to [the supervisor] upon return to the workplace.

If an employee does not provide documentation of a COVID-19 test result as required by this policy, they will be removed from the workplace until they provide a test result.

Employees who have received a positive COVID-19 test, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a licensed healthcare provider, are not required to undergo COVID-19 testing for 90 days following the date of their positive test or diagnosis.

COVID-19 testing facilities are available at no cost nationwide at health centers and select pharmacies such as CVS, Walgreen and RiteAid.

## Face Coverings

If an employee covered by this policy is not fully vaccinated and granted an exception from the mandatory vaccination requirement because the vaccine is contraindicated for them, National Hospice Management, will require the employee to wear a face covering when indoors, when occupying a vehicle with another person for work purposes or when with any patients, caregivers, in facilities or with referral sources. Face coverings must: (i) completely cover the nose and mouth; (ii) be made with two or more layers of a breathable fabric that is tightly woven (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source); (iii) be secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head. If gaiters are worn, they should have two layers of fabric or be folded to make two layers; (iv) fit snugly over the nose, mouth, and chin with no large gaps on the outside of the face; and (v) be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, visible holes, punctures, or other openings. Acceptable face coverings include clear face coverings or cloth face coverings with a clear plastic panel that, despite the non-cloth material allowing light to pass through, otherwise meet these criteria and which may be used to facilitate communication with people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing or others who need to see a speaker's mouth or facial expressions to understand speech or sign language respectively.

The following are exceptions to NHM's requirements for face coverings:

1. When an employee is alone in a room with floor to ceiling walls and a closed door.
2. For a limited time, while an employee is eating or drinking at the workplace or for identification purposes in compliance with safety and security requirements.
3. When an employee is wearing a respirator or facemask.
4. Where National Hospice Management has determined that the use of face coverings is infeasible or creates a greater hazard (e.g., when it is important to see the employee's mouth for reasons related to their job duties, when the work requires the use of the employee's uncovered mouth, or when the use of a face covering presents a risk of serious injury or death to the employee).

### New Hires:

All new employees are required to comply with the vaccination requirements outlined in this policy as soon as practicable and as a condition of employment. Potential candidates for employment will be notified of the requirements of this policy prior to the start of employment. These new employees must comply with this policy and be fully vaccinated, within 60 days of their signed offer or sooner.

### Confidentiality and Privacy:

All medical information collected from individuals, including vaccination information, test results, and any other information obtained as a result of testing, will be treated in accordance with applicable laws and policies on confidentiality and privacy.

### Questions:

Please direct any questions regarding this policy to your immediate supervisor or the human resources department.