

House of Delegates

Revised New Business Item: COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements to Advance Patient Safety and Public Health

Sponsors: Bernice Man (IL), Karen McConnell (CO)

States or Entities Represented: Illinois, Colorado

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Co-sponsors: Andrew Donnelly (IL), Ashley Ryther (UT), Laura Butkievich (MO), Matthew Rim (SSPP)

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements to Advance Patient Safety and Public Health

Motion:

To support employers in establishing and implementing mandatory vaccine requirements for COVID-19 vaccines once approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and encouraging the use of COVID-19 vaccines under emergency use authorization; further

To advocate that healthcare organizations limit patient and staff risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 from individuals who are not immunized, which may include requiring unimmunized individuals to refrain from direct contact with patients and staff; further

To urge healthcare organizations to have policies that address additional infection prevention practices required for healthcare workers who remain unimmunized against SARS-CoV-2.

Rationale:

COVID-19 is a vaccine-preventable disease for which there are [safe and effective vaccines](#). The [evidence](#) is clear that the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines, as authorized by the Food and Drug Administration, far outweigh the risks associated with these medications. Universal vaccination against preventable infectious diseases among healthcare workers, including all members of the pharmacy workforce, is a safeguard to patients and public health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [recommends](#) that all healthcare personnel get vaccinated for COVID-19, and [several major health systems](#) have instituted mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies for their employees as of May 2021. In its recommendation regarding influenza vaccination, the CDC considers healthcare workers to include (but not be limited to) physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, emergency medical service personnel, dental

personnel, pharmacists, laboratory personnel, autopsy personnel, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons (e.g., clerical, dietary, housekeeping, laundry, security, maintenance, administrative, billing, and volunteers) not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted to and from healthcare workers and patients.

Limiting patient exposure to unvaccinated staff is consistent with the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association: “Physician practices and health care institutions have a further responsibility to limit patient and staff exposure to individuals who are not immunized, which may include requiring unimmunized individuals to refrain from direct patient contact.” ([AMA Code of Ethics Opinion 8.7](#))

Suggested Outcomes:

That ASHP advocate healthcare organizations adopt policies to reduce risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in all healthcare settings.

Background:

The sponsors of the proposed New Business wish to revise their motion in response to amendments made by the House to Council on Pharmacy Practice 6: Universal Immunization for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Healthcare Workforce. Those changes are as follows:

~~To advocate that hospitals and health systems require healthcare workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccination except when (1) it is contraindicated, (2) the worker has religious objections, or (3) the worker signs an informed declination; further,~~

To support employers in establishing and implementing mandatory vaccine requirements for COVID-19 vaccines once approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and encouraging the use of COVID-19 vaccines under emergency use authorization; further,

To advocate that healthcare organizations ~~institutions~~ limit patient and staff risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 from individuals who are not immunized, which may include requiring unimmunized individuals to refrain from direct contact with patients and staff; further,

To urge healthcare organizations to have policies that address additional infection prevention practices required for healthcare workers who remain unimmunized against SARS-CoV-2.