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## Happening Today: Register Now for AHCA/NCAL Vaccine Mandate Exemptions Webinar

AHCA/NCAL will host a webinar on how to implement religious and medical exemptions to CMS' vaccine mandate **today, November 22 at 4 PM Eastern**. This webinar is available only to AHCA/NCAL members, and registration is required and limited. The webinar will also be recorded and available for review.

### **CMS Staff Vaccine Mandate: Implementing Religious & Medical Exemptions**

Presented by Sarah R. Skubas, labor and employment attorney with Jackson Lewis, P.C.

Monday, November 22 at 4 PM Eastern

REGISTER TODAY

## Submit Comments to CMS on Nursing Home Staff Vaccination Mandate

AHCA has established a portal with guidance to help providers [submit comments](#) on the [CMS Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Interim Final Rule](#). This rule requires Skilled Nursing Facilities, Nursing Facilities, and ICF-IIDs to establish a policy ensuring that all eligible staff be vaccinated for COVID-19 or request a medical or religious exemption.

The implementation dates for this rule are as follows:

- **Phase 1 – December 6, 2021:** Staff must have received at least the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Phase 2 – January 4, 2022:** Staff must be fully vaccinated, except staff who have been granted exemptions, or those whom COVID-19 vaccination must be temporarily delayed as recommended by the CDC due to clinical precautions and considerations.

Comments can be submitted **by January 4, 2022**.

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## Other COVID-19 Updates

**Updated Template Policies & Procedures:** AHCA has updated its [template policies and procedures](#) for the CMS staff vaccine mandate to reflect the recently updated [CMS FAQs](#). [Read More](#)

**Important Updates - PRF Phase 4 and Rural Award Timeline:** HRSA posted an updated award timeline in the now-closed Provider Relief Fund application web portal, stating: “HRSA will begin making payments in December 2021 and continue through January 2022. HRSA will send individual communications to providers when final payment decisions are made and is not able to respond to requests for updates on application status at this time.” Rural payments are still on track for November, while this update impacts Phase 4. [Read More](#)

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## Upcoming Webinars

### The Resilience in Recovery

Hosted by Direct Supply  
Monday, Nov. 22 at 12 PM ET  
[RSVP](#)

### National Nursing Home Stakeholder Call

Hosted by CMS and CDC  
Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 2 PM ET  
[Register](#)

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Please email [COVID19@ahca.org](mailto:COVID19@ahca.org) for additional questions, or visit [ahcancal.org/coronavirus](http://ahcancal.org/coronavirus) for more information.



### COVID-19 Dashboard

Explore the latest trends on cases, community spread and census.



### Save Our Seniors

Policymakers must prioritize long term care residents and staff with ongoing support.



### #GetVaccinated

Find resources and stories to encourage LTC staff and residents to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

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