

## Health Notification

### Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Vaccine Update

May 15, 2025

In August 2021, the Philadelphia Board of Health (BOH) passed a regulation requiring healthcare workers, people working in healthcare settings, and people associated with institutions of higher education to receive COVID-19 vaccine to enhance the protection of both these individuals and patients against COVID. The regulation was amended in 2023 to exclude institutions of higher education from this mandate. The federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 expired on May 11, 2023. While other COVID-related mandates were previously rescinded to align with the end of the emergency, this regulation remained in place. Since the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ended, COVID has become endemic, and rates of hospitalizations and deaths are similar to those caused by seasonal influenza.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) and the Philadelphia BOH strongly support healthcare institutions in creating and enforcing appropriate vaccine requirements for staff. There are no current regulations that mandate other vaccines. Given the change in COVID epidemiology and severity, the BOH voted to align COVID vaccine with other vaccines and rescind the regulation. In effect, this means that healthcare workers should follow the specific policies of their employer or the healthcare institution where they work, volunteer or study regarding COVID vaccination.

The Philadelphia BOH and PDPH continue to encourage age-appropriate vaccines for all Philadelphians, including updated COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccination continues to provide the best protection against COVID and is essential for protecting people who are most at risk for severe disease, including older adults and persons with certain underlying medical conditions.

View the Regulation Rescission here:

<https://www.phila.gov/departments/departments-of-records/regulations/rescission-of-regulation.pdf>