



Wisconsin Medical Society

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WisMed Calls on Health Care Entities to Require COVID-19 Vaccinations

As Wisconsin and the nation continue to see dramatic increases in COVID-19 infections – primarily due to the spread of the Delta variant among the unvaccinated population – the state’s largest physician organization is calling on all health care entities to require that their employees be vaccinated against COVID-19.

“For months physicians have been encouraging everyone who is eligible to receive a vaccination to protect themselves, their family and their community from this awful virus,” said Wisconsin Medical Society COVID-19 Task Force Chair David Letzer, DO. “We have been educating both our patients and the public on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and countering the inaccuracies portrayed in much of social media. In fact, our plea with the public is to help us move closer to herd immunity.”

Despite the pleas for voluntary vaccination participation, Wisconsin is seeing another resurgence in COVID-19 infections, with a [330 percent increase](#) in the 7-day rolling average of new confirmed cases in just two weeks.

“At some point, all employers have to step up and start mandating vaccinations to protect their employees and customers,” Letzer said. “Because the Delta variant is two to three times more infectious than the original strain, the time has come to take this next step. We are calling on all health care organizations to mandate their employees be vaccinated against COVID-19, barring rare medical contraindication.”

The WisMed stance follows [last week’s call](#) from dozens of national health care organizations, including the American Medical Association, for employer-mandated vaccinations. Health care systems in Wisconsin have also begun to require vaccinations: SSM Health, the Mayo Clinic Health System, Ascension Wisconsin, Children’s Wisconsin and the Medical College of Wisconsin have all stepped up to protect public health through required vaccinations.

“Health care needs to continue to lead the fight against COVID-19,” Letzer said. “The only hope to beat this virus is through a significant increase in vaccinations. Mandates similar to what we already have in place for measles or influenza are needed. It’s time for all health care employers to lead by example, do the right thing and take this necessary next step.”

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With more than 10,000 members dedicated to the best interests of their patients, the [Wisconsin Medical Society](#) is the largest association of medical doctors in the state and a trusted source for health policy leadership since 1841.