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TO: Hospital Service Coordinators
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FROM: J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant

DATE: August 12, 2021

SUBJECT: VA to require COVID-19 vaccination for volunteers

In an effort to protect its patients and staff, the Department of Veterans Affairs will require volunteers in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities to be vaccinated for the coronavirus, beginning Friday, Aug. 13, 2021.

Under this new requirement, VA volunteers—including DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) and Transportation Network drivers—**will have eight weeks to provide proof of vaccination** to their local VHA Occupational Health Office.

This mandate expands the agency's previous directive requiring vaccination for VHA employees who interact with veteran patients.

COVID-19 remains an urgent health concern for veterans, their families and our communities. The new Delta variant continues to spread throughout the nation. A disproportionate number of our members and those we serve are at a higher risk for infection because of the sacrifices many have made in uniform. Also, the safety of our volunteers is an ongoing concern.

We apologize to those who may be temporarily precluded from supporting veterans as a result of this necessary policy and thank you in advance for your understanding.

Sincerely,


J. Marc Burgess
National Adjutant